GREENBELT
News Review
An Independent Newspaper

Inside Stories

ICE at Greenbelt Park, p.9

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VOL. 89, No. 33 | 15 Crescent Rd., Suite 100, Greenbelt, MD 20770-1887 | JULY 9, 2026

M-NCPPC Litigation to Impact Funding for Greenbelt Projects

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

On June 26, a judge for Prince George's County Circuit Court temporarily blocked the county's transfer of $39 million from the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) to its own budget. Members of the Prince George's County Council argue the funds are taxpayer dollars they are free to repurpose while the M-NCPPC argues the money belongs to that body, mandated for parks, recreation and planning services, and is not the county's at all. A hearing on the case is now scheduled for September. In the meantime, the block on funds may impact several Greenbelt projects.

PHOTO COURTESY CITY OF GREENBELT

The current litigation affects funding for several projects in Greenbelt including the recoating of the indoor pool, which is part of its 10-year maintenance plan.

At the June 8 Greenbelt City Council meeting, Timothy Adams, Prince George's County Councilmember for District 4 (including Greenbelt), gave an update on the budget apportioned to the city from the county. Funding for $1.165M in projects includes support for Buddy Attick Park and Greenbelt Lake, up from typical county contributions of $260K annually to $400K this year; $400K for field light installation at Schrom Hills Park; $300K for Greenbelt Museum's

See **M-NCPPC**, page 12

Greenbelt's Beloved Ambassador, John Henry Jones, Remembered

by Nicholas Jones, Nathan Jones and Corita Kate Waters

John Henry Jones, 98, of Greenbelt, died peacefully on June 11, 2026, surrounded by family and friends.

Born May 6, 1928, in the coal mining town of Houston, Penn., he was the youngest son of Hillery Hubbard Jones and Albertha Napper Jones.

The generations are long in the Jones family, as John Henry's father was born in 1873 and his mother in 1886. His father was a coal miner who trained mules to carry the coal out of the mines, a veteran of the Spanish-American War who also served in the Philippines in 1900 and a great sportsman, hunter and fisherman. He and his wife Albertha created a bountiful garden in the yard of their house on McNutt Street to help put food on the table for their six children.

PHOTO BY MARY CLIVE

John Henry Jones in 2014

John Henry's family was large and loving, and his beloved nieces and nephews have remained connected with him over the past century.

John Henry's siblings, nieces and nephews are Leon Harper Jones (Virginia Oliver) and Carmelita; Hillary Nitchell Jones (Alice Davenport), Vivian, Wanda and Rita; William Leonard Jones (Bessie Price), Carla, Wilma, William, Jaylinn, Leon and Sheryl; Laura Jean Jones Salter (Bryant Salter Sr.), William, Bryant Jr., Robert, Margretta Bernice Jones and Diana.

John Henry shared 48 incredible years with his loving wife, Elaine Dorothy Dietz Jones, after marrying on May 1, 1971, at

See **JOHN HENRY**, page 4

Local News Network Summit Explores Future of Journalism

by Cam Crossett

PHOTO BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLOW

Erik Hanson, council reporter for the Greenbelt News Review, and Sharon O'Malley, managing editor of the College Park Here and Now (Streetcar Suburbs), talk during the Local News Summit.

On June 12, journalists, media scholars and news leaders from across the region gathered at the Philip Merrill College of Journalism on the University of Maryland (UMD) campus for the annual Local News Network Summit, a day-long event focused on the future of local journalism. Among those attending were the

See **SUMMIT**, page 12

Goddard's Area 400 Transferred To U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

On Tuesday, July 7, leaders from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) convened with other officials in the area of Goddard's campus known as Area 400 for a ceremonial transfer of the approximately 105-acre plot from NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC) to the USFWS.

Goddard's campus, including Area 400, is within Greenbelt's city limits following the annexation that took place in April. Area 400 is primarily a wooded tract with a clearing of approximately 2.5 acres that until recently held 11 buildings and their infrastructure, such as plumbing. The legal transfer of the land took place in February but GSFC was still conducting close-out activities to return the area to a natural state until recently, explained Rob Garner, GSFC's news chief.

The proposal of the transfer dates back several years and was first reported by the News Review in the January 13, 2022 issue. At that time we reported that the parties would need to agree on terms for transfer at fair market value to avoid public sale. Later, however, NASA was able to declare the area excess property and conduct the inter-agency transfer at no cost, Garner confirmed for the News Review on Tuesday.

See **AREA 400**, page 7

PHOTO COURTESY NASA

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Brian Nesvik (center) stands with NASA Goddard Director Jamie Dunn (right), who holds out a monarch butterfly, one of several released at the end of the ceremony on Tuesday. Mayor Emmett Jordan (left) enjoys the moment.

Council Advances Collective Bargaining for City Employees

by Larry Beyna

The Greenbelt City Council met in regular session on June 22. At the meeting, council approved the first reading of an ordinance amending the city's Labor Code chapter on Personnel to establish the procedures governing collective bargaining and labor-management relations for designated city employees (certain eligible full-time and regular part-time non-exempt, non-managerial and non-confidential employees). This action continues the long process of first granting collective bargaining authority to the city's Police Department employees a number of years ago, then, early this year, granting that authority to Public Works employees and, very recently, amending the city charter to expand collective bargaining authority to other groups of city employees, the basis for the proposed ordinance.

Proposed Ordinance

Here are some highlights of the proposed ordinance:

See **COUNCIL**, page 8

What Goes On

Monday, July 13
7:30 p.m., City Council Meeting, Municipal Building
Wednesday, July 15
7:30 p.m., Council Worksession: City Manager's Quarterly Update (Planning and Community Development/CARES), Municipal Building

See the city ad on page 5 or the meetings calendar at greenbeltmd.gov for more information.

Letters to the Editor

Additional Reparations Meeting Discussions

This letter adds details to the Commissions on Reparations article in the July 2 issue. Around the year 2000, Greenbelt began moving from being a white/Caucasian majority city into becoming a Black/African American majority city. There were various small discussions during the meeting around how to count Black/African American people for reparations. A small group there belonged to an advocacy group entitled ADOS – American Descendants of Slavery, which seeks to have reparations for descendants of enslaved people. There are certainly many issues but one involves whether the city should try to count those African American workers' descendants who came out from D.C. and other places in Maryland to build the city.

Another issue could be, do we try to count only Greenbelters who can show that their families were part of the enslaved? Or could families who have resided in Greenbelt for a certain number of years be part of the list? It appeared that more discussion may be needed here.

Within the housing subgroup, there was discussion about how the city was going to pay for these changes/reparations. It was felt that grants would not be stable enough or long enough to help with issues like home down payments or rental assistance. Would these changes require a tax increase – either permanent or for a limited time. Money, and the source of money, is a major consideration for whatever is planned.

Another comment from within the housing group was whether the reparations group had sought input from African American organizations. Some additional recommendations within the education group included trying to encourage parents to be more active in school PTA meetings and other school activities by offering free child-care services or giving the parent a small stipend to attend the meetings. These were considered since many of these parents are working more than one job and have very limited time and money.

Mary Moien

Thanks to Fitness Center

Last week I went to the Aquatic & Fitness Center to do what I call "my workout" – [others don't seem to call it that anyway.] I

See **LETTERS**, page 6

PHOTO BY MATT NEUFELD

An artistic reminder of the holiday in the main parking lot at Roosevelt Center, photographed on Sunday, July 5.

On Screen at Greenbelt Cinema

Maddie's Secret

The film is comedian, writer and actor John Early's critically acclaimed directorial debut starring himself as Maddie, a plucky dishwasher who leaps to viral superstardom at a trendy food content creation company. While her life seems picturesque – complete with an adoring husband (Eric Rahill), ride-or-die best friend (Kate Berlant) and a cupboard full of woman-owned ethically sourced chili crisp to boot – mounting professional pressures threaten to reawaken a hidden secret from her troubled past. A pitch-perfect blend of satire, melodrama, daring tonal shifts and intimate performances, the film marks a bold new voice in contemporary cinema.

Two Pianos

After years of self-imposed exile, pianist Mathias (François Civil) returns to France, where his former mentor Eléna (Charlotte Rampling) has invited him to perform a series of concerts with her in his hometown of Lyon. Once a rising star of the French musical scene and Eléna's prized pupil, Mathias has spent many years teaching and performing in Japan. Soon after his arrival, a chance encounter with a child who looks just like him throws Mathias into turmoil, threatening to drag him down, and leads him back to his first love, Claude (Nadia Tereszkiewicz). French master Arnaud Desplechin (My Sex Life ..., A Christmas Tale) returns to some of his favorite themes – psychologically charged homecomings and unexpected reunions (romantic and otherwise) – in this sensual, Hitchcockian melodrama featuring one of Rampling's most delicious roles in years.

Peter Asher: Everywhere Man

Peter Asher's extraordinary life has intersected with some of the greatest artists and musical moments of the last six decades. A child actor who became a pop star and then a manager and producer to the likes of James Taylor and Linda Ronstadt, he is a Zelig-like figure who remains a vital creative force to this day. Featuring interviews with Paul McCartney, Carole King and many more.

Freaky Friday

Single mother Tess Coleman (Jamie Lee Curtis) and her teenage daughter Anna (Lindsay Lohan) couldn't be more different, and it is driving them both insane. After receiving cryptic fortunes at a Chinese restaurant, the two wake up the next day to discover that they have somehow switched bodies. Unable to switch back, they are forced to masquerade as one another until a solution can be found. In the process, they develop a new sense of respect and understanding for one another.

The Odyssey

From director Christopher Nolan comes the story of Odysseus, king of Ithaca, who embarks on a perilous journey to return home after the Trojan War. Starring Matt Damon, Tom Holland, Anne Hathaway, Robert Pattinson and Lupita Nyong'o.

greenbelt CINEMA

Greenbelt Cinema
129 Centerway
301-329-2034
www.greenbeltcinema.org

Members always $7.00!
Member kids are always FREE!

After 5 PM: adults $10, kids $7, senior/student/military $9

Before 5 PM:
general admission $8, kids $6

OC = Open Captions
CC = Closed Captions
DVS = Descriptive Video Service

SHOWTIMES:
JULY 10th - 16th

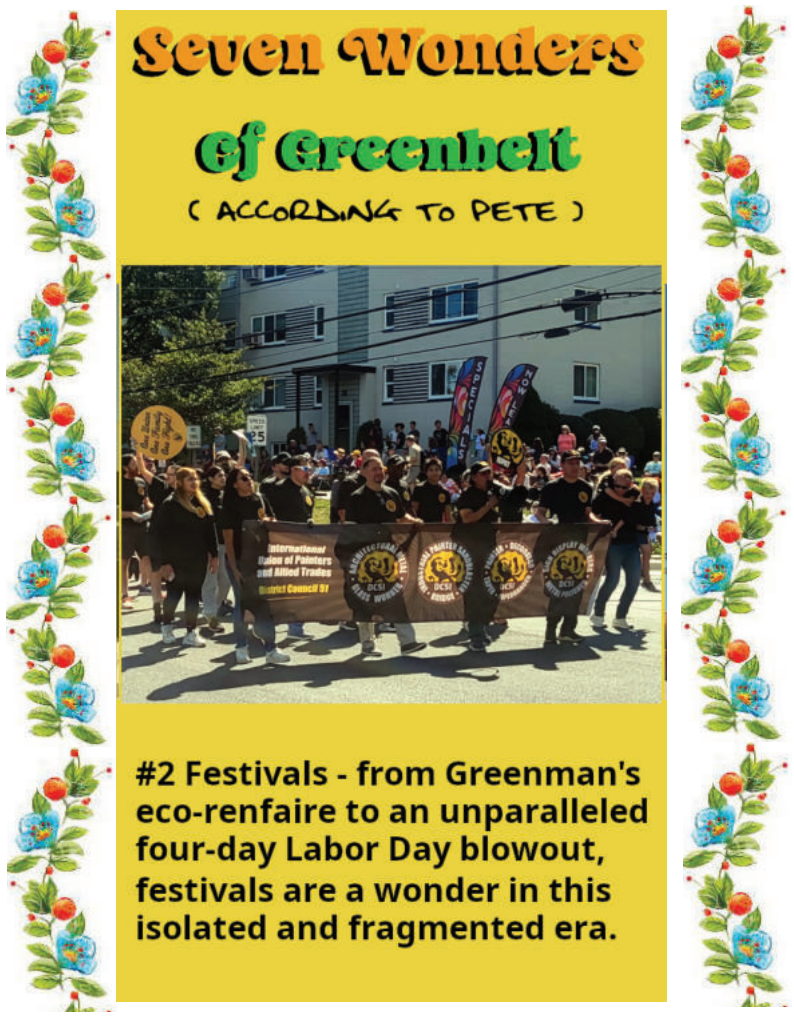
Maddie's Secret (NR)
(CC) (DVS) (2026) (98 mins)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Fri. 5:00 PM
Sat. 8:10 PM
Sun. 5:15 PM
Mon. 5:25 PM
Wed. 4:00 PM
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Fri. 7:55 PM
Mon. 2:45 PM
Tues. 7:00 PM
Thurs. 7:30 PM

Two Pianos (NR)
(CC) (DVS) (2025) (115 mins)
French with English subtitles
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Sat. 5:00 PM
Mon. 2:30 PM
Tues. 7:15 PM
Thurs. 4:00 PM
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Fri. 5:15 PM
Sat. 7:55 PM
Sun. 2:15 PM
Wed. 6:45 PM

Peter Asher: Everywhere Man
(NR) (2026) (118 mins)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Fri. 7:30 PM
Sun. 2:00 PM
Tues. 4:30 PM
Wed. 6:30 PM
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Sat. 5:15 PM
Sun. 5:00 PM
Mon. 5:10 PM
Thurs. 4:30 PM

Freaky Friday
(PG) (2003) (97 mins)
School's Out! - FREE
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Thurs. 1:00 PM

The Odyssey (R)
(CC) (DVS) (2026) (172 mins)
Early Members-Only Screening
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Thurs. 7:00 PM


Seven Wonders
of Greenbelt
(ACCORDING TO PETE)
#2 Festivals - from Greenman's eco-renfaire to an unparalleled four-day Labor Day blowout, festivals are a wonder in this isolated and fragmented era.

Letters Policy

Deadline for letters is 6 p.m. Monday. Submission does not guarantee publication. Letters should be no longer than 300 words (shorter letters are more likely to be published).

Letters may be edited for clarity, grammar, civility and space constraints. The News Review may add a comment from the editor if deemed necessary.

All letters must include the letter writer's name, physical address, and telephone number. Only the name will be published; the News Review will consider requests for the name to be withheld.

Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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CIRCULATION Circulation Coordinator: circ@greenbeltnewsreview.com
HOA information at: www.greenbeltnewsreview.com/contact-us/distribution

Published weekly since 1937 by the Greenbelt Cooperative Publishing Association, Inc.

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PUBLICATION DEADLINES:
- Monday 2 p.m. Articles/photos over 700 words, Display ads (not camera ready).
- Monday 6 p.m. All letters to the editor (300 word limit).
- Tuesday 2 p.m. Articles/photos under 700 words, photographs not associated with a story.
- Tuesday 5 p.m. Co-op dropbox: Classified ads with payment only.
- Tuesday 6 p.m. Classified ads and camera-ready display ads.
- Email submission is available. Hardcopy submissions (delivered by respective deadline) may be mailed to the address above or left in the Co-op grocery store drop box or GNR external office door mail slot, as shown below.
- Payment must accompany ads except by prior arrangement.

MAIL SUBSCRIPTION: $55/year

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.
OFFICE HOURS: Monday and Tuesday, 2 - 4 p.m.
GNR external office door mail slot is located up a few stairs 25 yards left of the Community Center's east door near the Municipal Building.

Community Events

At the Library

Greenbelt Library's regular hours are Mondays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Tuesdays and Wednesdays, noon to 8 p.m.; Thursdays and Fridays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sundays, 1 to 5 p.m.

Storytimes

Tuesday, July 14, 12:15 p.m., ages 2 to 3. Register at pgcmls.info/event/16645482.

Wednesday, July 15, 12:15 p.m., ages 3 to 5. Register at pgcmls.info/event/16486791.

Thursday, July 16, 10:15 a.m., ages newborn to 2, Register at pgcmls.info/event/16486824.

Come join in for stories, songs, fingerplays and more. This engaging activity nurtures early literacy and sparks creativity, making it an unforgettable experience for little ones.

Build with Legos

Monday, July 13, 4 p.m., ages 5 to 12. Build, create and explore with Legos. With plenty of pieces and endless possibilities, kids can let their imaginations take the lead in this freestyle building session. Register at pgcmls.info/event/16523073.

Ride and Read

Thursday, July 16, 11 a.m.. ages 16+. Sign up for an hour ride on a stationary bike with great free apps from PGCMLS like Libby, Kanopy, and Freegal to enjoy while working out. Participants must be 16 or older, sign a waiver before beginning to ride, and be wearing loose-fitting clothing and closed-toed shoes. Register at pgcmls.info/event/16519506.

Used Books Sought For PTA's Book Sale

It's that time of year again. Declutter your space and support a local elementary school. For those whose bookshelves are overflowing, the Greenbelt Elementary School PTA will be collecting used books to sell at the annual Labor Day Festival used book sale.

The PTA will accept book and media donations in Old Greenbelt on Saturdays, August 15 and 29 from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. All books will be accepted (except manuals, encyclopedias and dictionaries), as well as CDs, DVDs, records, puzzles and games. For more information, email booksalegespta@gmail.com or visit sites.google.com/view/gespta/events/labor-day-book-sale.

More Community Events are located throughout the paper.

Summer Fun Runs At Buddy Attick

Once again the Prince George's Running Club (PGRC) is partnering with the Greenbelt Recreation Department to host the Buddy Attick Summer Fun Run series. The series is part of Get Active Greenbelt and provides an excellent opportunity for all levels of runners and walkers to exercise in a friendly and welcoming environment throughout the summer months. Best of all, it's free.

Races will take place every Thursday at 7 p.m. (registration 6:15 to 6:45 p.m.) from July 9 to August 13.

The course will take runners and walkers around the scenic and shaded Buddy Attick Park lake path for their choice of either 1.75 miles (1 lap) or 3.5 miles (2 laps). Meet at the Youth Center parking lot (99 Centerway, behind the library).

There are two steps needed to register:

1. Register on RunSignup at runsignup.com/Race/MD/Greenbelt/SummerSeries2016.

2. Download and print the City of Greenbelt activity registration form and bring it to your first race: greenbeltmd.gov/home/showdocument?id=17704.

Weather Cancellation Policy

Races will be cancelled if there is lightning in the area after 6:30 p.m. Cancellations will be announced on PGRC's website.

Volunteers are needed to put on free races. Volunteer positions include registration, course marshal, water stop, popsicle and ice supplier, setup and cleanup. Sign up to volunteer at runsignup.com/Race/Volunteer/MD/Greenbelt/SummerSeries2016.

Rotary Hosts Pumpkin Festival Round Table

The Greenbelt Rotary Club's monthly speaker series returns Thursday, July 9, with a round table discussion to shape the future of the Greenbelt Pumpkin Festival. All former volunteers and community members with a passion for this tradition are warmly invited to attend. The event will be held at the Community Center, with refreshments and conversation at 6:30 p.m. before the presentation at 7 p.m.

The Rotary Club meets every Thursday morning at 8 a.m. at the Greenway Center IHOP, except the second Thursday when the club hosts this speaker series.

Creative Kids, Circus Camps Present Shows on July 10

Greenbelt Recreation's Creative Kids Camp (CKC) and Circus Camp invite community members to attend free, family-friendly performances on Friday, July 10 at 10 a.m. and 2:15 p.m. Come enjoy CKC's production of Hercules and Hippolyta, an original musical written and directed by Chris Cherry, Greenbelt Recreation's performing arts coordinator.

Join history's first super-heroes on a musical adventure. Working together, they rescue the noble titan Prometheus, defeat the bullying Big Bad Boar and capture the Golden Hind, a magical deer who can grant any wish. How Hercules and Hippolyta use their wish is the final test of whether or not they are heroes.

At 1 p.m. see the Circus Camp's production of Under the Big Top. Under the direction of mentors Sam Collins and Julia May, circus campers will present a showcase of their skills, including juggling, stilt walking, unicycle, tightrope, tumbling, clown gags and more.

All performances will take place in the Community Center gym. For free tickets, visit the Community Center business office or call 301-297-2208.

For more information about Greenbelt Recreation arts programs, visit greenbeltmd.gov/arts. Programs are supported in part by the Maryland State Arts Council.

Golden Age Club

The Golden Age Club meets on Wednesdays at 11 a.m. in Room 201 of the Community Center.

July 15, Birthday celebration with a potluck luncheon; bring a dish to share. If a birthday celebrant during July, be ready to tell your story.

July 22, Bingo.

July 29, Sing-along with guitarists Barbara and Mike.

Chess Club Meeting

The Greenbelt Chess Club will meet on Tuesdays, July 14, 21 and 28 at the Youth Center from 6:30 to 8:50 p.m. The club welcomes people of all ages and skill levels. To be added to their mailing list, visit tinyurl.com/ycy2nz4m and complete the brief form. Email questions to greenbeltchessclub@gmail.com.

English, Spanish Story Time, SHL Rec Center

On Friday, July 10 at 10:30 a.m. at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center, Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness (RUAK) with the Prince George's County Memorial Library System, will present engaging, lively stories and activities in English and Spanish for young children and their caregivers to help build early literacy skills. This monthly program is an introduction to reading aloud to children as a way to instill the love of literature. After the readings, children can stay and play with balls in the gym. There will be free children's books and free healthy nutritious snacks. Come, and spread the word to friends and family.

Los Niños Leen y Juegan

El viernes 10 de julio a las 10:30 a.m. en el Centro Recreativo de Springhill Lake, RUAK (Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness) con el Sistema de Bibliotecas Conmemorativas del Condado de Prince George's presentarán interesantes historias y actividades divertidas en ingles y español para niños pequeños y sus cuidadores, para ayudar a desarrollar las habilidades de alfabetización temprana. Este programa mensual es una introducción a la lectura en voz alta a los niños como forma de inculcar el amor por la literatura. Después de las lecturas, los niños pueden quedarse y jugar con pelotas en el gimnasio. Habrán libros infantiles gratis y aperitivos saludables y nutritivos gratis. Como dijo un padre al irse, "Fue muy bueno!" Unete a nosotros, y corra la voz a amigos y familiares.

Boxwood Village Scholarship Open, Applications by July 15

The Boxwood Village Civic Association offers an annual $500 scholarship to a current Boxwood Village resident. It is available to graduating high school seniors and full-time (at least 12 credit hours per semester) undergraduate students. The scholarship is partially funded through the proceeds from the Boxwood booth at the Greenbelt Labor Day Festival, the annual Boxwood yard sale and other activities.

The application form must be completed and returned by July 15.

A scholarship committee comprised of three Boxwood Village residents will choose this year's recipient. For further information or to pick up an application form, email Janet Mirsky at mirskyjanet@gmail.com.

Greenbelt Station July 12 Community Yard Sale

Residents throughout Greenbelt Station will participate in a neighborhood-wide yard sale on Sunday, July 12 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Shoppers can use an interactive Google Map (accessible by the QR code below) to plan their route. The event is organized by the Greenbelt Station Engaged Neighbors Committee as a fun way to connect neighbors and recycle gently used items. Parking is limited, so plan accordingly. Make this a great community event by parking legally and being respectful of residents by not blocking driveways or alleyways.

GATE GREENBELT ACCESS TELEVISION
Community-Driven Storytelling

Featured Programming on Greenbelt Access Television
July 2026
Verizon FiOS Channel 19 · Comcast Channel 77 · Streaming Online at GreenbeltAccessTV.org

GATe's Camcorder Essentials Course (2 Hours): Saturday, July 11th at 11am-1pm and 2pm-4pm at GATe's Studio (15 Crescent, Suite 204). The class is now free and open to the public, but seats are limited. Email greenbeltaccess@gmail.com to reserve your spot!

Featured Productions
New, daily episodes of Democracy Now
Coverage of local events, performances and productions
All-new creations from Mister Geo's Homeschool Digital Animation Class

All this and more on our cable channels, online streaming, and YouTube channel. As always, thank you for tuning in!

This Week at the New Deal Café
Celebrating 30 Years in Greenbelt! Try Our New Menu & Drinks!

BECOME A MEMBER!* FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!

113 Centerway, Roosevelt Center, Greenbelt, MD
Monday, 9am-9pm; Tuesday—Thursday, 9am - 10pm; Friday/Saturday, 9am – 12midnight; Sunday, 9am – 9pm
REMEMBER TO TIP OUR PERFORMERS - IT'S THE ONLY WAY THEY'RE PAID!
* * * RESERVATIONS: 301-474-5642 * * *

TH 7/09	FRI 7/10	SAT 7/11	SUN 7/12
Lulu's Fate 7 - 9pm A trio playing traditional Appalachian & country blues	Moxie Blues Band 8 - 11pm Very unique songs that you may not have heard, but are awesome, nonetheless	The Gayle Harrod Band 8 - 11pm Award-winning blues, soul, R&B, and originals	ASL BRUNCH, 10:30a - 12noon The Rhythm Doctors w/ Valentina Maria 6 - 8pm Feel-good music rooted with strong rhythmic foundations spanning multiple genres

MON 7/13	TUES 7/14	WED 7/15	TH 7/16	New Deal Cafe
LIVE BAND KARAOKE W/ Mike Scott & Friends 6 - 9pm Live Karaoke Band!	NDC Open Mic w/ Tom Gleason 6 - 9:30pm Sign ups begin at 6pm; Open Mic starts at 6:30p	PUB QUIZ 7 - 9pm See if you can beat the previous month's winning team!	The Bachelor & The Bad Actress 7 - 9pm All-original acoustic duo w/ Joseph Swelterpants and his lady	RENEW OR BECOME A MEMBER OF THE NDC! See link below*

*Join NDC! Go to NewDeal Cafe(dot) com, click on "ABOUT", then "BECOME A MEMBER OR RENEW."
FUNDING FOR THESE ADS PROVIDED BY A GENEROUS DONOR.

JOHN HENRY continued from page 1

Hope Lutheran Church, College Park. They raised three children together in a small apartment in Greenbelt's Lakeside North community (Nicholas Adam, Nathan Peter and Corita Kate).

They were Pops and Granny to their grandchildren, and called Mom and Dad by so many of the college students and younger couples that lived in Lakeside North, many of whom became lifelong friends.

Although the small town of Houston, Penn., was a community of immigrants from all over Europe who came to work in the coal mines, the nearest Black family to his own lived about two miles away. Since Houston was too small to have a high school, John Henry graduated from Canonsburg High School in 1947, where he set records running the high hurdles on cinder tracks.

During high school, John Henry worked as an assistant to the town's undertaker, driving the hearse to western Pennsylvania mountain towns. After graduation, he went to work in a steel mill, riding the streetcar 12 miles to and from Pittsburgh. He recalled that the conductor would wake him up after long shifts and the long ride, saying, "Jones! You're home!"

John Henry's life began to change when Uncle Sam "invited" him to join the U.S. Army as a draftee in 1950. Stationed in a Military Police unit at Camp McCoy in north-central Wisconsin, where they did cold-weather training for the Korean War, he gained his first experience with hospitals as he had to pull duty in a mental hospital. One of his most vivid memories was coming back from weekend leave to find that the barracks had been transformed overnight by the integration of the U.S. military.

John Henry returned to Houston and the steel mill, but four years later, he traveled to Washington, D.C., for a vacation and to look for a better job. He started his career as a GS-1 nursing assistant at St. Elizabeth's Hospital (St. E.'s), where he received further education and training, gradually assuming jobs with greater responsibility. In 1960, John Henry became the first industrial therapist at St. E's, working in Vocational Rehabilitation in the Mental Health section until 1970.

He transferred to the Children's Center in Laurel to create a research program to bring the mentally challenged into the community. He was responsible for determining if the adolescent patients could become a part of the community rather than being institutionalized. The core objective of the program was to close down the section and, "We did!" he said, proudly.

While working during the day at the Children's Center, John Henry worked night shifts at the Howard University Psychiatric Ward as a recreational therapist for their rehabilitation training program. After his work for the Children's Center unit was completed, John Henry returned to D.C. to work in the Rehabilitation Services Evaluation Center with alcoholics and people with physical or mental disabilities to help them transition back into the community. His experience and training enabled him to work with clients and employers, utilizing his strengths of conversation with people from all walks of life.

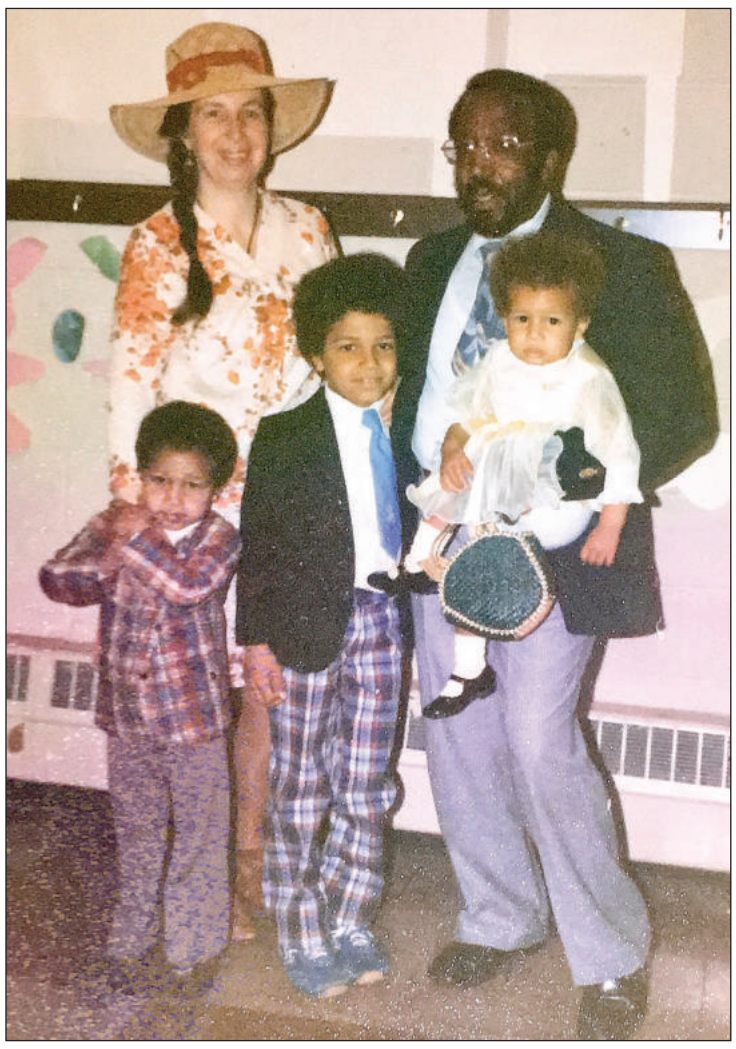


PHOTO BY DAN SWOPE

Elaine and John Henry in 1980 with their children, from left, Nate, Nick and Corita

As he retired from his long career working in mental health in 1995, John Henry was proud that the person hired to replace him required a doctorate degree in psychology. His supervisors were not sure they could ever find anyone who knew as much about working with people as John Henry Jones.

John Henry met Elaine in 1969. Elaine was the head psychiatric nurse at St. Elizabeth's and lived in Greenbelt. "I married her and moved to Greenbelt," he said. They were one of the first interracial couples to be married in the state of Maryland after the landmark Supreme Court decision, Loving vs. Virginia. Elaine said that after a year she asked John where he would like to move. "I like it right here in Greenbelt," he told her.

John Henry was involved in and a leader for many Greenbelt activities, such as the Little League, coaching Boys and Girls Club soccer, chaperoning school field trips, and helping with local Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops. He was a carrier dad, granddad and carrier himself for the Greenbelt News Review for decades; his grandson Kai carries on the family tradition as the News Review's circulation coordinator.

John Henry served on the Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS) PTA and was a longtime supporter and fan of women's soccer and basketball at ERHS and at the University of Maryland. He earned the beloved nickname "Doc Jones" while coaching Greenbelt soccer. He was known for carrying a first-aid kit and rushing onto the field to care for an injured player, whether they were from Greenbelt or an opposing team.

One of John Henry's greatest loves was gardening, a passion which he poured himself into after his retirement. John Henry was a master gardener, having learned how to cultivate flowers, vegetables and plants from his parents as a child and from close friends at the St. E's greenhouse. He convinced the Lakeside North apartment manager to allow him to create a vegetable and flower garden in the backyard behind 402 Ridge Road, and he expanded his gardening footprint with a large plot at the top of Ridge Road.

When John Henry and Elaine bought their first house in the early 1990s, a GHI end unit on Ridge Road, he became involved with the larger Greenbelt gardening community and the gardens at Hamilton Place. He maintained a large plot there for three decades and nurtured not only his flowers and veggies, but new friendships. John Henry became the president of the Greenbelt Garden Club and the members affectionately named the garden Henry's Hollow in his honor.

In his 80s and 90s, John Henry was an active leader with the Golden Age Club, serving as a charismatic bingo caller, planning monthly birthday celebrations and leading club members in singing "Happy Birthday" with his deep bass voice. He was known for calling to sing to members on their birthdays. For several years, he was the Club vice president and chair of the nominating committee for elections. Earlier this year, the Golden Age Club presented John Henry with a lifetime membership award in honor of his passionate dedication to the club.

John Henry enjoyed delivering Valentine's Day cards to his Greenbelt friends and neighbors, participating in Community Center programs, volunteering at the Greenbelt Museum and being a GHI Court liaison. John Henry also helped the Co-op Grocery Store recruit new members on the first Wednesday of each month. "I believe I got some people to move to Greenbelt that way," he says.

He was named Greenbelt's Outstanding Citizen in 2012, and was long known as the city's "Ambassador" and "Unofficial Mayor" to recognize his civic involvement, community service and contributions to the Greenbelt Community;

"His warmth and spirit make him a pillar of our community," recalled Greenbelt Mayor Emmett Jordan.

John Henry was also a pillar of his beloved Hope Lutheran Church, serving as an usher, communion assistant, lector, grill master, baby-burper, council member and advisor to pastors across the decades. John Henry's memorial service and celebration of life and legacy took place June 20 on the same grounds where he and Elaine married 55 years ago.

John Henry and Elaine lived their lives to the fullest and with love, a legacy that lives on in their children, grandchildren, great-grandchild, and in all of the

See **JOHN HENRY**, page 6

Vision for America
CONNECTING
A Common Endeavor
Scan with cellphone camera to play on YouTube
Greenbelt Bahá'í Community
www.greenbeltbahais.org

Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church
40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt
Open hearts, Open Minds, Open doors
Find us on facebook.com/mowattumc
301-474-5410
Pastor Evelyn Romero
Worship Service, Sundays 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.
Core Values from Romans chapter 8.

St. John's Episcopal Church
11040 Baltimore Avenue, Beltsville, MD 20704
301-937-4292 www.saintjohnsbeltsville.org
Welcomes you each Sunday for
Worship & Sunday School
at 10:00 AM

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
We Are an Open and Affirming Church
GREENBELT COMMUNITY CHURCH
One Hillside Road
Join Us Sunday
10:15 AM for Worship
www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org
Rev. Aubra Love, Senior Pastor

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF GREENBELT
Mass Sundays at 10:00 a.m.
Community Center Room 114
15 Crescent Rd
cathcomgreenbelt.org
ALL ARE WELCOME!
A Roman Catholic Intentional Eucharistic Community
OR - Join us on ZOOM!
For ZOOM link:
CCG1985+owner@groups.io

ST. HUGH OF GRENOBLE CATHOLIC CHURCH
- Daily Mass: Mon-Fri 7:15am*, Sat 9am*
- Sunday Mass:
  - Sat vigil 5pm*
  - Sun 8am, 9:30am,11am
- Confessions Saturday 3pm – 4pm.

Masks for the unvaccinated encouraged.
*Live streamed on Facebook and available on our YouTube page later.
CELEBRATE WITH US
135 Crescent Rd.
www.sthughofgrenoble.org

Mishkan Torah Congregation
10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770
Rabbi Saul Oresky, Cantor Yael Fischman
A welcoming, inclusive, and friendly synagogue offers something for everyone: young, old, single, married, and both Jewish and interfaith families.
Services at 8:00pm Friday and 9:45am Saturday in person and on Zoom
For more information, visit MishkanTorah.org or call 301-474-4223
A Dual-Affiliated Reconstructionist and Conservative congregation
10 Ridge Rd, Greenbelt, MD 20770

City Information & Events

The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate all people. By sharing together all are enriched. We strive to be a respectful, welcoming community that is open, accessible, safe and fair.

MEETINGS FOR JULY 13 - JULY 17

Tuesday, July 14 at 6 pm, **BOARD OF ELECTIONS - *Virtual***

Wednesday, July 15 at 7:30 pm, **WORK SESSION – CITY MANAGER'S QUARTERLY UPDATE (PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/CARES) - *Council Chambers***

Wednesday, July 15, Following the Work Session, **SPECIAL MEETING/CLOSED SESSION – PERSONNEL MATTERS AND PENDING LEGAL MATTERS - *Council Chambers***

In advance, the hearing impaired are advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email banderson@greenbeltmd.gov. This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call (301) 474-8000. For information on public participation for the meetings above, visit the meetings calendar at www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar.

GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING

Monday, July 13 at 7:30 pm

ORGANIZATION
- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Meditation and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
- Reading of the Greenbelt Community Pledge
- Petitions and Requests
- Consent Agenda
  * Meetings
  * Committee Reports
    * Advisory Planning Board Report #2026-03 - County Legislative Amendment to the Zoning Ordinance for the Purpose of Exempting Certain Private School Uses in a Residential Zone from the Requirement for Special Exception Approval
  * Resignation from Advisory Board/Committee
- Minutes of Council Meetings
- Prince George's County Cooperation Agreement Regarding Greenbelt's continued participation in the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Urban County Qualification - Federal FY 2027-2029
- Approval of Agenda and Additions

COMMUNICATIONS
- Presentations
- Minutes
- Administrative Reports

LEGISLATION
-An Ordinance of the City of Greenbelt, Amending the City Labor Code Regarding Article VIII
- 2nd Reading, Adoption

- A Charter Amendment Resolution Of The City Council Of Greenbelt Enlarging The Corporate Boundaries Of The City Of Greenbelt By Annexing Into The Corporate Limits Of The City Of Greenbelt Lands Contiguous And Adjoining To The City's Existing Corporate Boundaries Property Commonly Known As Lanham Boys Club, Consisting Of Approximately 10 +/- Acres Of Land In Total Located Generally At The Lanham Boys Club.
- 1st Reading

- A Resolution to Authorize the Negotiated Purchase of Certain Goods and Services from Various Vendors as Enumerated Herein when Total Fiscal Year Purchases from each Vendor Exceed Ten Thousand Dollars
- 1st Reading, Suspension of the Rules
- 2nd Reading, Adoption

OTHER BUSINESS
- CB-069-2026: A Countywide Ordinance Concerning Use Regulation for the Purpose Exempting Certain Private School Uses in a Residential Zone from the Requirement for Special Exception Approval
- Request for Letter of Support for the Maryland State Arts Council
- Proposed Skate Park Mural
- Authorize the City Manager to Execute the Purchase of Police Vehicle(s)
- DHCD Strategic Demolition Fund Grant Application: Greenbelt Armory
- Discussion: City Council Sub-committee Working Group(s)
- Council Reports
- Council Activities

In advance, the hearing impaired is advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email banderson@greenbeltmd.gov.

This agenda is subject to change. For the most up-to-date agenda, visit www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipalTV or call (301) 474-8000.

OFFICIAL NOTICE

In accordance with Section 3-305(b)(1) and (8) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of the Public General Laws of Maryland, a closed session of the Greenbelt City Council will be held on Wednesday, July 15, 2026, immediately following the City Manager's Quarterly Update Work Session, in Council Chambers of the Municipal Building :1) to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals; and 2) to consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation.

The purpose of this meeting is 1) to address personnel matters over which this public body has jurisdiction; and 2) to consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation.

**** The public may attend the Special Meeting of the City Council prior to the closed session and observe the vote of the Council to move into the closed session on Wednesday, July 15, 2026.***

- Bonita Anderson, City Clerk

A majority (or quorum) of Greenbelt City Council members may attend community organization meetings, but no official Council action will be taken at these meetings. Please note that meeting locations may change after being published. For information on how to join these meetings, contact the respective organization directly.

GREENBELT PRIDE PARADE AND FESTIVAL

Saturday, July 11 from 10 am - 6 pm
Gardenway and Roosevelt Center

Celebrate Emerald City Pride 2026 at this full-day festival featuring live performances, community organizations, artists and makers, food vendors, interactive activities, and a vibrant Pride parade. Join the community for a day of celebration, connection, and fun for all ages.

ELECTRONICS, STYROFOAM, & PAINT RECYCLING

Saturday, July 25 from 9 am to 12 pm
Public Works Facility, 555 Crescent

Electronics Recycling - Accepted: CPUs, monitors, keyboards, mice, printers, laptops, recording equipment, speakers, scanners, surge protectors, cameras, telephones, radios, DVD players, VCRs, fax machines, wires, power cords.

NO - ALKALINE BATTERIES or CFLs; NO - TUBE TVs.

Expanded Polystyrene - White, block Styrofoam #6. NEW: egg cartons and food trays!

PAINT RECYCLING!

Cost—$5 per container. DO NOT mix paint in other containers. If you are unable to attend the event, you may hire this service directly to come to your home for an additional $100 service fee. Contact: Yuck Old Paint, LLC 888-509-9825 (YUCK) or www.YuckOldPaint.com. Contact Public Works at (301) 474-8004 with any questions or concerns.

Contact Public Works at (301) 474-8004.

GREENBELT CARES PROGRAMS

STRONGER MEMORY CLASSES
Tuesdays, July 7 through August 11, 1 - 2:30 pm
Greenbelt Community Center, Ground Floor East

Participants will learn practical strategies to strengthen memory, stay mentally active, and connect with others in the community.

FREE - Registration is required. Final call for registration is June 15. To register, contact Cesar Herrera at 202-891-8071.

FREE PRODUCE DISTRIBUTION
Thursday, July 16 from 1 - 3 pm
Greenbelt Community Center Parking Lot, 15 Crescent Road

Please don't forget to bring your CAFB card! Don't have one? You can sign-up for a free card sameday and receive food.

BACK TO SCHOOL HEALTH FAIR
Tuesday, August 18, 10 am - 1 pm
Springhill Lake Recreation Center, 6101 Cherrywood Lane

Meet organizations devoted to strengthening community connections - providing resources about health insurance, mental health services, and city educational programming. Free full health screenings (blood pressure, glucose, cholesterol, A1C), vision + hearing screenings, dental screenings, fun activities and more!

UPCOMING NATURE EVENTS

Kayaking at Buddy Attick Park
Saturday, July 11 from 8 - 11:30 am
Buddy Attick Park, 555 Crescent Rd

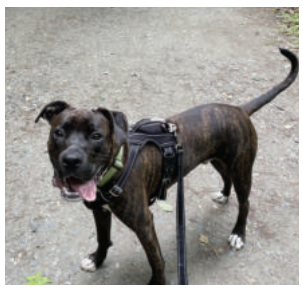
Join Greenbelt Park Rangers and explore Greenbelt Lake by Kayak. Kayaks, vests, and paddles are provided at no cost, but supplies are limited. Participants are welcome to bring their own watercraft, vests, and paddles.

Walk with a Ranger
Saturday, July 18 from 10 - 11 am
Buddy Attick Park, 555 Crescent Rd

Enjoy a morning stroll around Greenbelt Lake along with the Greenbelt Park Rangers. Meet at the main entrance under "The Big Tree". No registration required. The walk lasts approximately 1 hour.

FEATURED PETS

BLU



Ready for Adoption?

Call (301) 474-6124

11-month-old Blu was surrendered to the shelter back in March when his owner could no longer care for him. When he's not smothering you in affection, Blu loves to play with toys, go on walks, and learn new tricks. No puppy should have to grow up in the shelter – let's find Blu a home before his 1st birthday!

If you're interested in adopting bright-eyed Blu, please email animalservices@greenbeltmd.gov or call 301-474-6124 for more information.

GREENBELT CITY CALENDAR

Be sure to check out the City calendar for all up to date events at www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar.

* VOLUNTEER * VACANCIES * APPLY FOR A COMMITTEE OR BOARD TODAY!

Volunteering for City of Greenbelt Committees & Boards is an excellent opportunity to engage with your community and make a difference. Choose from a number of committees & boards such as the Advisory Committee on Education, Advisory Committee on Trees, Arts Advisory Board, Board of Appeals, Community Relations Advisory Board, Ethics Commission, Forest Preserve Advisory Board, Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability, Park and Recreation Advisory Board, Advisory Committee Advancing Public Safety, or Youth Advisory Committee and make a difference in Greenbelt!

Take the first step towards making a positive impact and apply for one of these committee vacancies today!

Call (301) 474-8000.

ARTS HAPPENINGS

Visit www.greenbeltmd.gov/arts for more information and many other opportunities!

Sign up for ARTFANS, a weekly e-newsletter, at www.greenbeltmd.gov/list.aspx

Creative Kids Camp Performs Hercules and Hippolyta 7/10; 10am & 2:15pm (Greenbelt Community Center) A musical adventure about history's first super-heroes! Written and directed by Chris Cherry, Greenbelt Recreations' performing arts coordinator. Ticket information below. Additional performances on 7/24 and 8/7.

Circus Camp Presents Under the Big Top 7/10; 1pm (Greenbelt Community Center) Campers present a showcase of their circus skills, including juggling, stilt walking, unicycle, tightrope, tumbling, clown gags, and more! Ticket information below. Additional performances on 7/24, 8/7 and 8/14.

Both camp shows are FREE, but tickets are required. Visit the Greenbelt Community Center business office or call (301) 397-2208. Seating is limited.

MORE ARTS HAPPENING SOON

- **Free Artist Talk with Cheri Glover** 7/17; 6-7pm Greenbelt Community Center RSVP at sugeni.us/eEyT.
- **July Art Share** 7/17; 7-8pm Greenbelt Community Center

Registration required for these activities, see www.greenbeltmd.gov/activityguide for details

- **Youth Pottery on the Wheel** M-F; 7/13-7/24, 3:45-5:45pm. Greenbelt Community Center (page 17) additional dates available.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

In the City of Greenbelt, we remain committed to embracing and celebrating the diversity of all. As our nation undergoes change, feelings of pride, uncertainty, and even fear may arise. Yet, we stand firm in the pledge that has defined Greenbelt since its inception and will not falter.

Learn more at https://www.greenbeltmd.gov/government/know-your-rights-immigration-resources.

Letters cont'd from p.2

had finished with three of the machines and was starting on the fourth when I started feeling funny.

My next thought was, "Why am I on the floor of the gym?" It seemed like seconds before there were several guards around me asking questions, "Did I have chest pains, did anything hurt?" I told them I had nothing like that.

They gave me a bottle of water and helped me sit up while Kennedy filled out forms. I drank the water and started feeling much better. She told me the EMTs were on their way and she stayed there with me.

Soon the EMTs came from Landover or Lanham, I don't remember which. While I was sitting on the floor they did an EKG and checked my blood pressure, oxygen level and my pulse. Being very old, I was very impressed. I remember back in the day they put you in an ambulance and hoped you didn't die on the way to the hospital. All the readings were good and I had drunk more water so I wanted to try standing. They got me up and I felt good but I asked Kennedy if I could use her arm until we got to the door. She didn't stop there she took me to my car and made sure I got in and was OK.

I thanked her for everything and drove home.

I was sitting in my recliner drinking fluids and watching reruns of my favorite K-Drama Woo Young-Woo when there was a knock at the door. It was Julie; she and I had worked at the Center many years ago. Stephen Parks, now manager of the Center, had called her and asked her to check on me. After she left I sat there thinking how fortunate we are to have such a well-trained, caring and professional staff working at the Fitness Center. Thanks again for the great care.

Stanley Edwards

Stop Sign Ticket Looks like Junk Mail

See photos of the envelope I got in the mail and was a step away from trashing (looked like spam) but opened out of curiosity, and saw the Greenbelt City image! It says my fine is overdue, so I may have trashed the first notice, for the same reason.

Katy Pape

Stop-sign Cameras And Safety

Is there evidence that new stop sign cameras address Greenbelt's major traffic safety needs? I'd think speeding and aggressive driving are the biggest threats. Also, might Obvio's website be a factor in the low collection rate? I logged on to pay three tickets, expecting to see them associated with my license plate. Instead, I had to find the letter for each citation to pay each fine.

(I believe Obvio's website also said zero mph is the threshold, not four mph.)

Patrice Pascual

Truth to Power With Humor

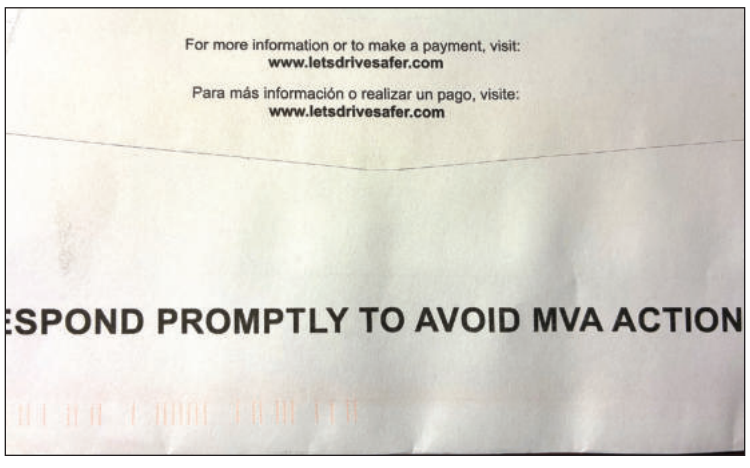
I am writing in regard to the article "Decommissioning Begins at BARC; Reportedly to Move by September 30" in the June 3, 2026, issue. I appreciate the News Review's deadpan but witty reminder that, despite Agriculture Secretary Rollins's assertion that moving BARC will bring it "outside of the Beltway" and closer to land grant colleges, BARC is "positioned directly adjacent to the University of Maryland ... a public land-grant research university." (That said, I would have added that BARC is, in fact, outside the Beltway.)

In the authoritarian moment that the Trump administration has forced upon the country, speaking truth to power is key, and it's even better when it can be done with humor. Thank you for reading my letter.

Tony Porco, Savage, Md.

Front and back of stop sign ticket envelope

- Photos by Katy Pape


For more information or to make a payment, visit:
www.letsdrivesafer.com
Para más información o realizar un pago, visite:
www.letsdrivesafer.com
ESPOND PROMPTLY TO AVOID MVA ACTION

JOHN HENRY continued from page 4

people who knew them and were impacted by their love and friendship. They formed friendships that have lasted to this day with people of all ages and backgrounds.

John Henry was lovingly cared for by Ade, Merci, Law and Jariatu ("G") over the past seven years, enabling him to live and thrive in his Greenbelt home throughout his 90s.

John Henry and Elaine are survived by their children and their families: Nicholas Adam Jones (Jennifer Carter-Jones), Madelyn Elena and Elias; Nathan Peter Jones (Yolanda McCray Jones), Leandre Deshaun and Jayden Daniel; Corita Kate Jones Waters (Andrea Waters), Kai Henry and Maeve Jillian; and John David Jones, deceased (Marie, deceased), Paige Rezel Brooks (Hakeem Brooks) and great-granddaughter Eliyanah.

In lieu of flowers, the family welcomes donations to the John Henry Jones Memorial. They plan to place a memorial bench and plaque in Henry's Hollow and to establish a Greenbelt community memorial fund in his honor. Donations may be made online at gofundme.com/JohnHenryGreenbelt.

Our families extend our profound thanks to the people of Greenbelt — a one of a kind community with people from all walks of life — and to the countless friends of John Henry and Elaine for the connections you formed and maintained with our family over decades, time zones and generations.

Thank you for your thoughts and prayers for Dad, for calling, visiting and sending letters and refrigerator magnets. That is what he loved so much. He liked to say, "Love. Always Remember Love. Love Grows."

We ask that you all continue to share your stories and memories with us and with one another. It's exactly what John Henry would want us to do.

Blood Drive Here August 21

The Red Cross will hold its next blood drive at the Community Center on Friday, August 21 as regular donors return from vacation and blood drives strive to replenish from the annual seasonal shortage. Appointments for donations of whole blood are available from 12:15 to 4:15 p.m.; there are five appointments available for power red donations (height and weight restrictions apply).

Slightly further afield but sooner, the Knights of Columbus Prince George's Council will host a drive at their facility on Cherry Hill Road in College Park on Monday, August 10. Appointments for whole blood are available from 1:15 to 4:45 p.m.; power red appointments are available from 12:30 p.m.

For those who cannot schedule an appointment on August 10 or 21, the Lanham Blood Donation Center, only three miles from Greenbelt on Annapolis Road, is open Sundays, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Mondays and Tuesdays from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 5:15 p.m.

Donors of all blood types — especially type O — are urged to make an appointment to give now to help meet the needs of patients. Visit redcross.org to make an appointment.

City Notes

Public Works prepared sites and furnishings for Independence Day events. Building Maintenance installed two HVAC units in the Community Center and a hot water tank at the pool.

Code Enforcement inspected three developments, 22 rentals and three complaints and issued six building permits. Planning staff attended a county stormwater management meeting and, with the city manager, met with St. Hugh/St. Jerome representatives.

Animal Shelter residents are five cats, seven kittens and five dogs after one cat adoption.

Recreation and Arts were busy with summer camps and classes, preparing for dangerous heat. Springhill Lake Recreation staff welcomed many neighborhood children to a safe, cool environment.

Therapeutic Recreation and Information Technology hosted Senior Tech Café and the Museum welcomed 50 attendees for a Reparations Town Hall.

CARES and Springhill Lake Elementary School conducted four Active Parenting sessions; nine parents attended. CARES counseled 161 clients (41 minors), mentored 15 GED and four workforce aspirants and taught 13 English learners.

Play Mahjongg Sat. Afternoons

Familiar with American mahjongg? Have a 2026 card? Come play on Saturday afternoons starting at 2:15 p.m. in Room 109 of the Community Center. While many games can be played in the Active Aging Game Room at that time, there usually is a table or two of mahjongg. Register in the Recreation Department office. The next two class sessions will be held during the fall and winter terms. Check the catalog for more information.

PRELIMINARY AGENDA
Meetings of the GHI Board of Directors
on July 11, 2026

GHI Closed Meeting – starts at 7:00 p.m. - closed to members and visitors

a) Approve Minutes of the GHI Closed Meeting Held on May 21, 2026
b) Financial Matters
c) Member Matters
d) Contract Matters

GHI Open Meeting – starts after GHI Closed Meeting - open to members and visitors

a) Approve Minutes of the GHI Open Meeting Held on May 21, 2026
b) Prince George's Community Credit Union – Approved Lender Request
c) Committee Operations Manual
d) Pepco Lighting Survey
e) Topic to Discuss with City for August 31, 2026 Work Session
f) 11-13 Ridge Road Lighting Project
g) GHI 75th Year Anniversary Rationale
h) Strategic Plan Progress Update
i) Motion to Hold a Closed Meeting on August 13, 2026

Members and visitors who wish to attend the Open meetings must register in advance via the following link:

https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwtd-uuqzoiG9XHGq9rswP_N9LZj33gbi9r

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

AREA 400 continued from page 1

Leaders from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and NASA join politicians as they throw milkweed seeds in the clearing within Area 400, from which buildings were recently removed.

- Photos courtesy NASA

Aerial photograph from 1984 showing buildings at Area 400, a portion of the campus of NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center. The buildings are in a 2.5 acre clearing in the 105 acres that make up Area 400.

Rich History

Area 400 "has a rich place in our nation's space program," said Ray Rubilotta, associate director of GSFC. In the early days of Goddard, around 1960, Area 400 was a location for propulsion research, and the propulsion systems developed there have been essential in maneuvering space satellites, explained Rubilotta. GSFC was established May 1, 1959, as NASA's first space flight complex. "Over time propulsion testing has evolved within NASA to other field centers, and the surrounding area around this Area 400 has grown, so that evolution brought forth the opportunity for transformation," he said. Finding a hundred acres of underdeveloped land in this region of the state is "almost unheard of," said Rubilotta, as he stressed the importance of the land, which a NASA media announcement dubbed 'Hundred Acre Wood.' The transfer affirms a commitment to environmental stewardship and responsible management of public lands, said Rubilotta.

Part of Patuxent Refuge

Area 400 is now part of the Patuxent Research Refuge, which USFWS Director Brian Nesvik noted is the largest contiguous block of forested land between Washington, D.C., and Baltimore and is now even larger. He called the transfer "really an incredible opportunity for both wildlife [and] for the local community." Nesvik said Area 400 will now offer opportunities for birdwatching and hiking and that there will be an evaluation of the opportunity for hunting. Nesvik cited President Theodore Roosevelt saying that what will make us a great nation is not the resources and lands we have but how we choose to use them. Roosevelt viewed conservation as a national duty.

Significance of Transfer

Mayor Emmett Jordan told those gathered, "Greenbelt has always been a place where planning and purpose matter. From our beginnings as a New Deal community ... to our long-standing commitment to open space ... we've worked to grow in a way that respects both people and the environment. This land is part of that story. It is part of the original 'green belt' that gave our city its name — a natural buffer that has helped define Greenbelt for generations. And today, our tree canopy and protected spaces remain some of our greatest assets. Today's transfer of Area 400 fits squarely in that tradition." Jordan said placing the land with USFWS ensures it will be protected and stewarded for future generations.

Also speaking at the ceremony, U.S. Representative Glenn Ivey said he loved what was going on in Greenbelt and pointed to NASA and the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, among other organizations. "And, yes, we're going to keep the agricultural research center right there just like it is," he told the crowd, an acknowledgement of current efforts to divest the center by the end of the fiscal year. Ivey emphasized numerous economic opportunities in the Greenbelt area and the chance to continue to grow on the science and technology front but also in conservation.

Ceremonial Agreement

Seated beneath a tent in Area 400, which was misty from recent storms and heat, GSFC Director Jamie Dunn and Nesvik signed a ceremonial agreement commemorating the transfer of Area 400 from NASA's GSFC to the Department of the Interior's USFWS.

Following the signing, dignitaries and officials threw milkweed seed in the clearing, where the outline of buildings that were located there until recently could be made out through the shapes of new sod. The ceremony ended with the release of monarch butterflies, who at this time of year will make their way north.

LOST DOG

"DAISY"

LAST SEEN RIDGE/NORTHWAY ON 7/8

CALL 301-318-4030

240-486-0242

A Review

Visit Patuxent Research Refuge To Walk, See Birds and Relax

by Mary Moien

PHOTO BY MARY MOIEN

Alusine Sesay looks for turtles crossing the road at the Patuxent Research Refuge.

Patuxent Research Refuge was established in 1936 by executive order of President Franklin D. Roosevelt and is the only wildlife refuge established to support wildlife research. It was created to conserve and protect wildlife and wildlands through research. Its 13,000 acres of forest, meadow and wetlands remained open for the public to enjoy during the fall 2025 government shutdown, after which its visitor center and programming reopened and resumed. Located less than a 10-mile drive from Greenbelt, the refuge offers an appealing outing for walks and outdoor exploration in good weather and free indoor activities, art displays and exhibits on inclement days. The Visitor Center, located on the refuge's South Tract, is open Wednesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., closed on federal holidays. Wednesday through Saturday, its Kids Discovery Center within the Visitors Center offers activity sessions that start at 10 a.m., 11 a.m. and noon. This year Patuxent Research Refuge gained over 100 acres in Greenbelt with the transfer of NASA Goddard's Area 400 to the US Fish and Wildlife Services (see article on page 1).

It had been many years since I last visited the Patuxent Research Refuge. In fact, my granddaughter and I visited it when she was 8 or 9. Now she is in college. Last year, while I was recovering from a broken ankle for months, my friend and staff, Alusine B. Sesay, had been working with me to regain my independence. We traveled to many nearby rural areas to enjoy the scenery. Many locations he had not seen before. We drove through Greenbelt Park one day and other days took drives down Research Road, through the farm and east on Beaver Dam Road. We are so lucky to have these wonderful areas surrounding Greenbelt. If you haven't visited these locations recently, you should definitely take a trip. The fields and forests are so beautiful.

One Monday in March, we went east on Powder Mill Road and turned in at 10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop to visit the Patuxent Research Refuge. It's a mile or more back into a forest once you make the turn. We got to the Visitor Center and there was a big sign that said CLOSED. I thought it was closed permanently. But there was a small sign under it that I couldn't read, so I got out my walker and toddled up to the sign. In tiny print it said

See **PATUXENT**, page 8

PUBLIC POLICY VOLUNTEERS

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
LEGACY LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC POLICY

The University of Maryland's Legacy Leadership Institute on Public Policy, in partnership with the State of Maryland, is looking for volunteers age 50+ to serve as volunteer legislative leaders during the 2026-2027 legislative session of the Maryland General Assembly.

The twelve-week classroom training (two days per week) begins on Wednesday, September 9, 2026, and ends on Wednesday, December 2, 2026.

Classes will be held at the University of Maryland Extension, 8930 Stanford Blvd, Suite 25, Columbia, Md., 21045. The volunteer assignment will be in the legislative offices of members of the Maryland General Assembly in Annapolis.

Participants will serve a minimum of two (2) days per week starting Wednesday, January 13, 2027, and ending Monday, April 12, 2027.

For more information or for an application, contact Wesley Queen at wqueen@umd.edu.

COUNCIL continued from page 1

• Definition of collective bargaining units for the Police Department, the Department of Public Works, and General Non-Managerial Employees in other departments

• The process of appointing a Labor Commissioner from the American Arbitration Association for any specific matter that arises, and the commissioner's responsibilities

• The rights of both employees and employer (the City of Greenbelt)

• Seven subjects for collective bargaining: wages, terms and conditions of employment, employee benefit plans, bonuses and gifts, jury duty, duration of the collective bargaining agreement and grievance procedures

• Definitions of unfair labor practices by the city and by an employee organization.

Other Discussions, Actions

Mayor Emmett Jordan issued two proclamations.

1) June 2026, as Small Cities Month in Greenbelt. According to the 2020 census, the city's population was 24,921, well within the 50,000 maximum for designation as a small city/town.

2) June 22-28 as National Pollinator Week in the city. Jordan also noted that Greenbelt is a Bee City USA.

Public Works Contracts

Council authorized City Manager Josué Salmerón to approve two contracts.

1) A contract with VMP (the city's prime contractor for all roadwork and major concrete efforts) to resurface Hanover Parkway from Ora Glen Drive to Green Crescent Court, the Co-op parking lot and crosswalks and, budget permitting, the parking lots and crosswalks at the Greenbelt Aquatic & Fitness Center and the Municipal Building. The funds budgeted include up to $1 million for street resurfacing and $150,000 for miscellaneous concrete works.

2) A contract for $22,800 to Tri Star Contractor, Inc., for procuring and installing two HVAC split systems serving the CARES/Senior Mental Health Counselor offices, adjacent kitchenette and breakroom.

Greenbelt's 90th

Jordan introduced a preliminary discussion of how to plan for the celebration of Greenbelt's 90th anniversary in October 2027. Some of the many suggestions offered by Jordan and councilmembers included forming focus groups of representatives from various city organizations to generate ideas for the celebration, charging city committees to come up with ideas, developing a theme for the celebration such as Greenbelt's evolution over the years as a diverse community or Greenbelt's New Deal origins, coordinating with city businesses that may be planning their own celebrations and holding several events and activities leading up to the anniversary such as a 1930s costume and dance party. Salmerón was charged with forming a planning committee led by city staff to begin working with the community on plans for the celebration next year.

Reports and Activities

In a brief report of council's recent attendance at the Maryland Municipal League's (MML's) annual convention, Councilmember Jenni Pompi noted that Jordan was appointed to MML's board of directors as a member at large and was elected vice president of the Maryland Mayors Association. Jordan also announced that the MML honored former mayor J Davis with its Lifetime Achievement Award for her tireless work on behalf of the City of Greenbelt and her many years of service to the MML.

Meetings

Finally, council discussed a lengthy schedule of meetings and worksessions and meetings with external county and state officials and organizations.

In keeping with its recently adopted standing rule to limit regular meetings to two hours, council completed its business in one hour and 59 minutes.

PHOTO BY KEN LOO

A great blue heron hunts in the late afternoon at Greenbelt Lake.

PHOTO BY JON GARDNER

A mother wood duck and her ducklings forage for food at Greenbelt Lake.

PATUXENT continued from page 7

open Wednesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

So, we went back on a Wednesday afternoon. It was very quiet in the Visitor Center when we entered. The volunteer in charge welcomed us. The book store/gift shop was also open. We walked around a few displays — yes, the giant standing polar bear is still there, right next to a huge whooping crane. The volunteer, who preferred to remain anonymous, indicated that many school groups still come to activities — in fact it was set up for a monarch butterfly hands-on presentation for children. In the back of the building there is a large glassed-in area where you can look over a lake and use binoculars to identify birds.

I asked the volunteer about the turtle crossing signs along the road. He indicated that there are many box turtles living in the woods. He described how they have a project with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) where, as employees make their rounds, they stop for any turtles they see in the road. Employees take a picture, measure the turtle on the front and back and make sure to lay the turtle down in the exact same position and direction it was found in. That information is then uploaded to the USGS. When asked if he was familiar with the turtles that live in Greenbelt Lake, he said that our turtles are different as they live in the water while his turtles are land/box turtles. They live year-round in the forest, sometimes sheltering under the leaves.

When we went back outside we encountered a number of hikers and a few bikers on the nearby trails. It apparently is a very popular spot for outdoor activities. In fact, they have a bike repair station there, similar to those located at the Greenbelt Homes, Inc. office and Buddy Attick Park.

The Visitor Center is located on what is called the South Tract. The extensive grounds are open daily during daylight hours (even when the Visitor Center is closed) for hiking, biking, relaxing and picnicking. There are an outdoor restroom and an electric vehicle charging station. The North Tract, accessed via Route 198, is only open on Sundays. Call 301-497-5772 prior to visiting just to be sure of the current hours and activities. (It appears that the phone is only answered on the days they are open.) For additional information visit fws.gov/refuge/patuxent-research.

PHOTO BY MARY MURCHISON-EDWORDS

A skink at Schrom Hills Park on April 19

The News Review Needs You

As a mostly volunteer paper, we need people. Our most pressing current need is for people willing to tackle stories. Not just on the things that interest them personally, but on the list of must-haves like council meetings, shenanigans at NASA and BARC and the other concerns that pop up. If you're not confident of your ability to write for a newspaper, though you may have written in other contexts, we'll soon be offering a writing class for new volunteers (and anybody else who is interested in journalism). Let us know you're interested by emailing meditor@greenbeltnewsreview.com or filling in the volunteer form on the website at greenbeltnewsreview.com/volunteer-to-help. There will be a Council Reporting class on Saturday, July 11, 2 to 4:30 p.m.

No ICE in Greenbelt Park But Also No Maintenance

by Frank Gervasi

A series of No Kings rallies across from Greenbelt Park protested a reported Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) facility there and the cooperation of U.S. Park Police officers with ICE agents on the Baltimore/Washington Parkway. Since then nothing has been heard about this presence in the park. So last Saturday a friend and I decided to search for it and drove around the park. "What if we see a couple guys with AK-47s standing guard over some ominous looking structure somewhere in the woods?" I mused.

Finding nothing, we parked in the Sweetgum picnic area, the only one of three still open to the public. Three park workers were doing some maintenance on a playground adjacent to the picnic area, so we strolled over to have a chat.

They told us that the other two picnic areas were closed because the restroom facilities were inoperable. Even worse was that maintenance funding was so inadequate that workers took parts from the two closed areas to repair the one still-open picnic area.

The Holly and Laurel picnic area restrooms that are closed were also closed last summer, affected by a problem with the sewer line that drains them both. At that time, they were closed for several months for repairs (see the July 31 2025 issue).

Eventually I asked about the ICE presence. They told us that ICE had been gone for quite a while. They had done some interrogations in the closed Laurel picnic area. We could probably still see some remnants of that, which were described to us.

The park workers told us to cross a field and take a trail on the far side, which would lead us to the site.

We hiked over with my video camera in hand to try and document what we might find.

Left behind were two Porta Potties, the dull gray-green type used by the military and other government agencies as field restrooms.

Porta Potties at Greenbelt Park

- Photos by Frank Gervasi

Interior of a Porta Potty in Greenbelt National Park

Inside the larger one, the kind that is wheelchair accessible, was a file cabinet and a swivel chair, both cheaply made items probably sold at a big box store. Left behind, they were covered in dust and leaves and other debris littered the floor. It was obvious the place had been abandoned months earlier.

We assumed a detainee would have been led in there and sat on the closed toilet lid while the interrogator asked questions from the swivel chair.

Several months ago a visiting relative of a News Review staffer was held through several stoplight cycles as a string of vehicles emerged from Greenbelt Park and turned right onto Greenbelt Road at the intersection with Walker Drive. Vehicles included at least several large black SUVs and at least one long white personnel carrier among other vehicles.

It's unknown how many people passed through there and what became of them afterward.

What is known is that national parks were not intended for this type of activity. The purpose of the park is for recreation and relaxation and for all of us as equals to get a little closer to nature and fresh air.

Hunger Doesn't Take a Vacation

Greenbelt's shared commitment to community-powered hunger relief continues through Greenbelt PORCH. Food collection times for July are as scheduled below. Food placed on porches by the time listed will be picked up after that time.

Sunday, July 12 – by 11 a.m. at 1-8 Courts Ridge Road, 1-8 Courts Crescent Road and 1-2 Courts Westway.

Saturday, July 18 – by 9 a.m. for 14 and 15 Courts Laurel Hill Road.

Sunday, July 19 – by 4 p.m. for P.A.L. (PORCH at large) members (including former Woodland Hill donors). Email Robert Goldberg-Strassler by noon on July 18 at spreadruak@gmail.com and he will come to your porch.

Sunday, July 19 – by 4 p.m. for Eastway and 33 Court Ridge Road; by 5 p.m. for Lakeside Drive.

Saturday, July 25 – by 10 a.m. from Mathew Street to Megan Court, including Brett Place.

2026 Greenbelt Outstanding Citizen Nomination Form

Submit your nomination by **August 1** to

Tom Jones
Outstanding Citizen Committee
1 Woodland Way Unit C, Greenbelt MD 20770
or **OutstandingCitizenGB@gmail.com**

Name of Nominee: _____

Address: _____

Attach a statement describing why this nominee deserves recognition as Greenbelt's Outstanding Citizen.

You can include a list of organizations or activities in which the nominee has participated, including length of time, specific accomplishments, their impact upon Greenbelt or people within the City, and personal qualities that make the nominee special. Note this award is for *unpaid* volunteer work only.

Others' testimonials or supporting material, are useful but not required.

You may be contacted for additional information. If you prefer, send this form now and complete the statement later. The form and any additional information must be received no later than the **August 1 deadline**.

Nominated by:

Name(s) Signature(s) Telephone

_____

We need your input—thank you!

GHI Members Eagerly Await Details on Building Purchase

by Cathie Meetre

At the May 14 annual meeting of Greenbelt Homes, Inc. (GHI), over 90 percent of GHI members present voted the necessary permissions and funding to the board of directors to enable it to delve into the feasibility of acquiring the building that houses the Co-op Supermarket and Pharmacy. This research is already underway but the results are not yet ready for dissemination.

In the run-up to the vote concerning the possible acquisition of the property, some GHI members are, not surprisingly, concerned. Members worry they will not have information in time to digest it before a vote. Fortunately, the News Review's record of the May 14 meeting can go some way to calm such fears, noting as it does the intention to provide information in advance (see the May 21 issue).

Public Due Diligence

During the May 14 meeting, GHI board members gave the assurance that, "If findings from upcoming investigations into the purchase came back promisingly, there would be another membership meeting in the summer, likely in July, to approve or disapprove the actual acquisition of the property." That meeting has now been set for Thursday, July 23.

GHI has stated that, "Staff and the Board of Directors intend to provide as much useful information as possible ahead of such a meeting so that members can consider the facts before deciding how they will vote." With two weeks still to go, there is yet time for this promise to be fulfilled.

Special Meeting of the Membership

Date: Thursday, July 23, 2026

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Location: Youth Center Gymnasium, 99 Centerway

Purpose: A formal vote from the membership to grant explicit authorization regarding the potential acquisition of the commercial property located at 121 Centerway (the building housing the Greenbelt Co-op Supermarket and Pharmacy).

Motion Wording

The published motion to be voted on that would allow the GHI board to proceed with the purchase has now been further explained in a letter to GHI members from GHI General Manager James Claggett, though the letter contained no further information on the purchase itself.

The letter explains that the motion must be presented to the membership prior to the meeting at which it is to be considered, hence its early appearance. If the motion is approved by the membership, the Board will continue to work toward the sale – though they would have the authority not to complete it. If the motion is not approved, then the sale would not go forward.

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THE FARMS

By Paul Downs

I can't believe what has happened in our country since the last time I went out to talk to the woods. There are powerful forces in this country twisting us into a bunch of divisive knots, and of course, this brand of ruthless knot-twisting is accompanied by an historic assault on the environment. There was a part of me that didn't want to come out and talk to the woods. But all I had to do was think about all the converging forces it took to stop a train from barreling at 300 mph through our forest, ready to plow our history and namesake into annihilation.

Sometimes when fear and doubt are ripping through the air, it can feel almost impossible to stand, hold your fist high, and acknowledge **the power of us all**.

I could feel a rising tide of gratitude in my chest, and it had to come out; it just had to. It was time to tell the woods what we did. I jumped up on an old fallen giant, panned my eyes across the valley below, and sang out, "Hello Great North Woods! I am here to ring a bell and sound the trumpets of victory in the form of good news."

With the cells of triumph gushing through my body, I internalized the victory of citizen intervention over the Maglev train. I looked to the lights of Greenbelt glistening in the

distance and said, "They did it again. They rose up for you and for themselves. We beat that train, and from here on out, there never will be a Greenbelt East or West, or North or South. There will be **One Greenbelt** that stopped that train. We stood as one, and as the late Rick Gordon would say, the "Emerald City" held her ground."

I continued talking to the woods. "The proposed route of that train was slated for one side or the other of the B-W Parkway, meaning our city had the perfect scenario to be divided. You could have easily had either side saying, 'Not on my side.' But what did Greenbelt do? Greenbelt did what makes Greenbelt Great! The train that was hell-bound to divide us– United Us!"

I looked out toward the lights of Greenbelt and said to the Great North Woods, "Sometimes I wonder if those dwelling in the distant lights know who they are, if they could possibly imagine what they did? This battle did not just unify Greenbelt, it strengthened the cooperative ties with our surrounding sister cities who all fought together to Stop That Train."

I said what I needed to say and sat on a log as the dust of gratitude settled around the trees, the moss, and the quiet places that linger ever so softly while we toil at life just beyond the forest boundary line. I sat for a time, staring toward the Golden Fields of Beltsville Farms.

"Oh, how I wish to have a day to bask," I whispered, looking into the night skies of Beltsville Farms, realizing I was staring directly into the mother of all battles. Who in the world is going to save The Farms from being closed and decommissioned? My eyes turned back toward the glistening lights of Greenbelt and her Sister Cities beyond.

And then I was flooded with memories of old battles. I can still remember hearing the doubtful voices of people saying, "You will never save the Greenbelt Woods from the proposed housing development." I got goosebumps thinking about how wrong they were. And then, in the heat of the Maglev battle, proponents of the train were saying, "It's a done deal, it's coming." I got more goosebumps. Nobody gets to tell Greenbelt when to give up on The Farms. The only thing that needs to be closed or decommissioned is the thought that we don't have a say!

I sat there looking toward The Farms, remembering where it all began: my kinship to the North Woods, which eventually led me to The Farms. In 1968, I was eight years old, and I went with my mom on an errand that took us on a drive all the way down Ridge Road. I was like a happy puppy dog in the backseat, seeing all these woods behind the GHI houses while driving along.

"Look Mom, more woods! Look Mom, more woods!" There were so many woods behind the GHI houses on Ridge Road.

I would spend the next few years exploring the Great North Woods of Greenbelt, and I will never forget the morning I found a little hole in the Beltsville fence. I stepped through the hole and the great expanse of The Farms beckoned. I could literally smell the larger forest of the Beltsville Farms, with its deep, moist aroma of expansive wetlands, and I knew right then that Greenbelt lay open on one side to the depths of a rich urban wilderness. I was hesitant to step any further in, thinking about the Goatman and all the rumors I had heard, but I went anyway, knowing that The Farms were a place where good people worked. Good, hard-working scientists making food safer for our country and advancing nutritional and botanical research for decades.

The contributions to our nation from the Beltsville Farms are immeasurable. As in any endeavor, unexpected outcomes can occur. Many Prince Georges residents can regale visitors of the scientist who stumbled while busy in the lab working overtime–perhaps pouring goat serum into the wrong vial and taking a sip or two? Local lore tells us of one such mishap in 1950, and for decades since, the Goatman has 'terrorized' neighborhoods throughout the region, showing up in forest-lined backyards and shocking weary onlookers.

In October, The Farms are known to many as "Goatman

Country." Lovers' Lane is where a young romance begins, parked in a dark, back-road hideaway. But on this one most hallowed night, something approaches the car, and the lovers stare into the void of the Goatman's eyes. The screams, the terror–and just around the bend is Cry Baby Bridge, eternally haunting Beaver Dam Road. Reeling from these thoughts, the young, teenage me forged on anyway.

I hiked along the Goddard stream, following skunk cabbage way into the forest where the water gets wider and the peepers' song announces spring's early dawn. The way the sun was falling upon the land in the lush thickness of June, I felt like I was walking into a Garden of Eden. I heard the thrashing of branches behind me and turned to see a buck swinging its head around, eyeballing me. A bit up ahead, I saw a raccoon crossing a log over the stream, and then, as if to punctuate the moment, a beaver heartily slapped his tail, announcing my arrival as a Great Blue Heron lumbered with a prehistoric thrust of wing just overhead.

It was then, as a young teenager, that I had my impressionable moment with The Farms, seeing so much life along the waterway and forest. At a half-mile deep into the woods, I was seeing birds and plants I'd never seen before. On that day, I learned a lot about what The Farms had to offer, and in the years to come, my understanding of that offering grew.

The Offerings of The Farms

In many ways, The Farms have preserved the natural history of Maryland. Much of the state's landscape has been forever changed in the last 116 years by sprawling development, but The Farms preserve something of the past. Since 1910, much of the topography, forest, and fields of this land haven't changed much. Riding through The Farms is like catching a glimpse into history.

And who in Greenbelt doesn't know about Research Road, the bridge, and the Eagles' nest? How many gorgeous sunset walks down Research Road have Greenbelt residents

enjoyed for decades? And who could forget the Golden Fields nestled just beyond the forest?

There is so much to it when you think about what The Farms offer us. Every Saturday night star party in our history has been enhanced by the darkened night skies of The Farms; every star is made brighter. Every Strawberry Moon shimmers more. Every breath you take is touched by the breathing trees of The Farms that hug Greenbelt's northern flank, making our air fresher. Every red-tailed hawk screaming over our community is launched out of The Farms. How many bike riders have had their best moments of the day rolling through the perfectly chilled mornings of The Farms?

Any resident who has ever felt that somehow, they didn't live in the middle of an endless metropolis, that somehow, they live on the edge of some vast, open natural space–that feeling is entirely due to The Farms. There is a demarcation line where society ends and untamed nature begins. The Farms are an urban wilderness which flows deep into the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge, serving as a sizable part of the green lungs of the Chesapeake Bay.

After sitting still a good bit, I heard a fox call, which spurred me to head down off Blueberry Hill towards The Farms. I eventually came upon the hole in the fence- that doorway that had beckoned so many years ago. I stood in the dark listening to the laughter of Canada Geese flying above.

I slowly raised my arms up and called out to The Farms: "Maybe one day soon, all of Greenbelt and her sister cities surrounding The Farms will ring a bell, accompanied by victorious trumpets, chiming in with the peepers, singing about the continuance of stacked decades of beneficial research and for saving The Farms. And we will know, with evermore certainty, Who We Are."

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paid ad

Greenbelters Travel

PHOTO BY SUSAN RICH

Carol Slatin reads the News Review in Hay-on-Wye, Wales. It's the perfect setting for reading as it's the world's first booktown. Where are the others?

PHOTO COURTESY JOY ALLCHIN

Joy Allchin stops to read the News Review at Cedar Rock Falls in Pisgah National Forest, N.C.

PHOTO COURTESY OWEN PATERLINE

Allison Adams and husband Owen Paterline took the News Review with them to Portland, Ore., last week. Here they are with the paper at the Lenné Winery just outside Yamhill, Oregon.

My Point of View

Pride Celebrations Continue: Parade and Festival Saturday

by Shaymar Higgs

As Greenbelt Emerald City Pride continues, we wanted to share highlights from two incredible community events and invite everyone to join us for the celebration ahead.

Our recent Drag Makeup Workshop was a tremendous success, bringing together people from across the full spectrum of our community. Participants learned makeup techniques, skincare best practices and how to safely prepare and protect their skin while using cosmetics. For those interested in drag artistry, attendees also explored contouring and shaping techniques that help create bold, expressive looks. More importantly, the workshop created a welcoming space where people could learn, ask questions, express themselves and build confidence in a supportive environment.

Our Vogue Workshop was equally inspiring. We were honored to welcome DMV Kiki Nights, whose instructors traveled from throughout the region – from New Jersey to Washington, D.C. – to share the artistry, history and culture of ballroom. The workshop was filled with movement, music, laughter and encouragement. Participants learned more than dance; they experienced the power of self-expression, body confidence, creativity and community. It was a beautiful reminder that movement can help us reconnect with ourselves and celebrate what makes each of us unique.

Now we look ahead to one of our biggest celebrations of the year.

Note that while some advertisements mistakenly listed the event as Friday, the Greenbelt Emerald City Pride Parade and Festival will take place this Saturday, July 11 in Roosevelt Center. We hope the entire community will come out and celebrate with us.

The festival will feature live performances, a community voguing workshop, drag queens, drag kings, local vendors, artists, families and neighbors coming together for a day centered on joy and belonging.

At its heart, Greenbelt Emerald City Pride is about celebrating family, community, love, visibility and inclusion. At a time when there can seem to be so much division in the world, Greenbelt continues to demonstrate what it means to show up for one another with compassion and respect. That spirit is what this celebration is all about.

The celebration doesn't end there. We have additional Pride events still to come, including our screening of The Wiz at the Greenbelt Cinema. Costumes are encouraged, and we can't wait to see everyone's creativity on display.

Thank you to everyone who has attended, volunteered, performed, sponsored and supported Greenbelt Emerald City Pride. Your enthusiasm continues to make this celebration something truly special.

Cheers to Greenbelt Emerald City Pride – we look forward to celebrating with you.

Shaymar Higgs is the founder and executive director of The SPACE Free Art For All.

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Join Greenbelt Rotary Club for a Round Table Discussion of the Pumpkin Festival and Its Future!

Whether you've carved a pumpkin, placed pumpkins into the woods, helped with composting, or just enjoyed the magic of a Pumpkin Walk, your perspective matters.

All former volunteers and community members with a passion for this tradition are warmly invited to attend.

The event will be held at the **Greenbelt Community Center on Thursday, July 9**, with refreshments and conversation at **6:30 p.m.** before the presentation at 7:00 p.m.

The Rotary Club meets every Thursday morning at 8:00 a.m. at the Greenway Center IHOP, except the second Thursday when the club hosts this speaker series.

Story & Photograph Submissions

We welcome your stories and photographs about all things Greenbelt. While publication is not guaranteed, your submissions help us cover more of what goes on. Stories will be copyedited. Remember to include captions and identify people in photographs. See the information box on page 2 for publication deadlines and how to submit materials.

Nugent & Kash OF COMPASS

Andrew and Kim are putting the finishing touches on half a dozen new listings in Greenbelt!

If you are considering a purchase, this is your time! Prices and rates are both stabilizing --while rent continues to rise.

Let us help you to find your home.

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Andrew Nugent
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m: (301) 814-8010

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Nugent & Kash named the 2026 Face of Prince George's County Real Estate by Washingtonian Magazine.

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Compass is a licensed real estate brokerage that abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. Information is compiled from sources deemed reliable but is not guaranteed. Compass is licensed as Compass Real Estate in DC and as Compass in Virginia and Maryland. 660 Pennsylvania Avenue SE Suite 300 Washington, DC 20003 | 202.545.6900

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Dr. Dianna Lee, Dr. Clayton McCarl, and Dr. Richard Duarte are licensed general dentists.

M-NCPPC continued from page 1

expansion project and $65K for pool recoating at the Aquatic & Fitness Center (see the June 24 issue). At that meeting Adams said he was proud of these investments by the county and remains committed to advocate for future investment. This money that the city was anticipating is part of what are called project charges funds.

Impact on Greenbelt Projects

Last week, City Manager Josué Salmerón told the News Review he hasn't had any direct conversations with either the county council or M-NCPPC regarding the implications of the temporary restraining order and ongoing litigation. However, it seems the county council has been blocked from transferring funds and awarding the project charges that Salmerón says Greenbelt is critically relying on for several projects. "I think it is fair to say that the full $1.165 million in project charges funding identified for Greenbelt is now in jeopardy," Salmerón told the News Review. "As a result, the city cannot move forward with those projects at this time."

The uncertainty limits the city's ability to proceed with several key projects that have narrow windows for construction and completion, says Salmerón. For one project – the recoating of the indoor pool basin, which is part of a 10-year maintenance plan – the blocked funding may mean a delay of a whole year. "We had planned to complete the indoor pool recoating project during the month of August, while the outdoor pool is still open," explained Salmerón. "That timing is important because the recoating requires us to close the indoor pool, drain it and apply multiple recoating layers. Given that the project funding is not available, we will need to push this project to August 2027."

The expansion and renovation plans for the museum are also time sensitive because other grant funding for the project is conditional on its timely use. "The city has secured grant funds for the Museum that we are at risk of losing if the project does not continue moving forward," confirmed Salmerón. "While we do not yet have full funding for the entire project, we have sufficient funding to proceed with demolition, the addition and major interior renovations. The city intends to push that work forward so that we can meet grant requirements and preserve the momentum that has taken so much time, effort and energy to build," he told the News Review.

Lighting at Schrom Hills Park, too, will become increasingly important at the start of fall, as days shorten and evening light for sports and recreation is reduced. The lighting planned for that park is for athletic play on the new Bermuda field.

Adams Responds

The council worksession with Councilmember Adams that was scheduled to take place on June 29 was cancelled by Adams. Adams told the News Review via email that the county council "reallocated funding to support programs and operations deemed by councilmembers to be impactful to the communities we serve, including several important projects in Greenbelt. These projects were not proposed in a vacuum but rather they came because of months of discussions with those very same municipalities and organizations who advocated for services and projects their communities depended on. Because this matter is currently before the court, it would not be appropriate for me to comment on the merits of the litigation or speculate on its outcome."

Adams said his office remains in communication with the City of Greenbelt and other District 4 municipalities, and said they will continue to share updates as available. "I understand the importance of projects such as improvements to our parks, pool and museum and I remain committed to advocating for the investments that benefit District 4 residents," Adams told the News Review.

"Regardless of the outcome of the litigation, I will continue working with my colleagues, our municipal partners and county agencies to advocate for the projects and investments that are important to the residents of Greenbelt and District 4."

As the dispute over the county's budget and its transfer of M-NCPPC funds plays out, possibly until the court hearing in September, Greenbelt and other recipients of project charges wait. "I do hope the county and M-NCPPC can work toward a swift resolution so that we can move forward with serving our residents, as they have entrusted us to do," said Salmerón.

Greenbelt Projects for FY 2027 at Risk

- Buddy Attick Park / Greenbelt Lake improvements, $400,000
- Trails, amenities, environmental stewardship and overall maintenance of Buddy Attick Park and Greenbelt Lake.
- Schrom Hills Park lighting improvements, $400,000
- Field lighting installation to improve safety, extend evening use and support sports programming.
- Greenbelt Museum rehabilitation and renovation, $300,000
- Historic preservation work tied to broader Museum renovation plans.
- Greenbelt Aquatic & Fitness Center indoor pool recoating, $65,000
- Recoating the indoor pool basin, which requires draining and closing the indoor pool during construction.

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SUMMIT continued from page 1

PHOTO BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLOW

Richard Tofel, left, author of the Second Rough Draft Substack and former president of ProPublica, talks with Tom Rosenstiel, UMD's Eleanor Merrill scholar, on the future of journalism for the keynote.

Greenbelt News Review's Managing Editor Anna Bedford-Dillow, News Review council reporter Erik Hanson and News Review intern and UMD journalism student Cam Crossett.

The conference centered on a newly released report examining how Maryland residents define local news and what they want from news organizations. The opening session was moderated by Tom Rosenstiel, lecturer and Eleanor Merrill Scholar on the Future of Journalism. Presenters included Tran Ha, founder and principal of Tiny Co Strategy Studio; Sean Mussenden, director of UMD's Howard Center for Investigative Journalism; and Krishnan Vasudevan, associate professor at Merrill College.

Using a human-centered design approach, researchers interviewed 17 Maryland residents ranging from a University of Maryland student to an Eastern Shore retiree. Rather than relying on large surveys, researchers sought to understand residents' motivations, values and daily information needs. "We always start with desirability," Ha said. "Understanding what people value and what their needs are as it relates to what we're providing."

What's Local?

Researchers found that Marylanders define "local" differently based on personal influence, identity and community connections. Depending on context and community, local could be a neighborhood, city, county, state or region like the DMV. Participants also said local news often focuses too heavily on crime while overlooking positive developments in their communities.

The study identified six key functions, or "jobs to be done" for local journalism: helping residents take action on issues affecting them, providing historical context, exposing systems that shape daily life, explaining the local impact of policy decisions, delivering timely and actionable information, and celebrating community life.

Mussenden said journalists should think more intentionally about whether their reporting helps readers respond to important issues.

Serving the Community

A second panel, Maryland Journalism's Job to Be Done, explored how news organizations can apply the report's findings.

See **SUMMIT**, page 15

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Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred June 29 - July 5, 2026. Readers are encouraged to contact the police if they have information that may aid in an inquiry. Call the non-emergency number 301-474-7200 or email pd@greenbeltmd.gov. Times provided are when the incidents were reported.

Incident Summary

Greenbelt Police reported an incident involving Child Protective Services, one mental health diversion involving suicide and two domestic incidents, both resulting in arrest.

Armed Robbery

On July 2 at 5:50 a.m. near 5923 Cherrywood Terrace, a man was walking to his vehicle when a white Toyota Camry pulled up near him. Three men, all wearing dark clothes and masks, approached him and demanded his bag; two seemed to be armed with handguns. He threw his bag on the ground away from the robbers and ran towards his apartment building. They left the area without any of his property. He could not identify the men because of their masks.

On July 2 at 1:28 a.m. near 6600 Capitol Drive, a man displaying a handgun demanded money from the cashier and fled on foot.

On July 5 at 10:33 p.m. near 6202 Springhill Drive, two teens, dressed in all black with masks, jumped another teen and took his shoes along with $30 in cash, then ran toward the mall.

Fight

On July 4 at 3:59 p.m. near 6400 Ivy Lane, a witness saw four women pepper-sprayed by two women they had attacked. All the women were removed from the premises and advised of warrants.

Disorderly

On July 2 at 5:19 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a man was seen defecating in public. He was banned from the location.

On July 4 at 11:48 p.m. near 5707 Cherrywood Lane, a disorderly man was banned from a store.

DUI Arrests

On July 3 at 10:00 p.m. near Breezewood Drive and Cherrywood Lane, a traffic stop led to the arrest of a DUI suspect.

On July 5 at 11:23 p.m. near 5810 Greenbelt Road, officers responded to an accident and arrested one of the drivers for DUI.

Fraud

On June 29 near 6301 Ivy Lane, an employee at a tax prep company is suspected of wiring over $80K in refunds to themselves in May 2026. The victim may be the IRS. The investigation is ongoing.

Theft and Shoplifting

On June 29 at 2:51 p.m. near 7573 Greenbelt Road, the store manager saw two girls grab merchandise and leave the store. Officers brought them back, and all items were recovered. The girls were released to their parent.

On June 29 at 9:03 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a citizen flagged down an officer regarding two young men who brandished a firearm and ran off. It was a realistic-looking BB gun. They also stole items. Officers found one of the men across the street; the BB gun was recovered, and the young man was taken to Upper Marlboro Department of Corrections.

On June 30 at 8:24 p.m. near 6104 Breezewood Court, a DoorDash order was stolen.

On July 2 at 2:02 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a woman was stopped after stealing merchandise; all items were returned and she was banned from the location.

On July 2 at 3:35 p.m. near 6006 Springhill Drive, a delivered package was missing.

On July 3 at 5:23 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a girl was caught after stealing merchandise; all items were returned; at 10:31 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a woman walked away from her cart while shopping and when she returned her cell phone was gone.

On July 4 at 2:55 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a woman was seen on camera stealing merchandise. All items were recovered, and she was banned from the location.

On July 5 at 4:50 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a woman was detained for shoplifting and banned from the location.

Vehicle Crimes

Stolen Vehicles

Six vehicles were stolen: on June 30 near 5903 Cherrywood Lane, a 2017 white Cadillac (Md. 3GW8695); on July 2 at 4:04 a.m. near 7800 Good Luck Road, a witness saw several people gain entry and flee in a vehicle; on July 2 near 6440 Cherrywood Lane, a 2022 Acura (Md. 8GN0984); on July 3 near 7913 Mandan Road, a 2019 gray Acura TLX (Md. 7GV2212); on July 4 near 5813 Cherrywood Lane, a black 2015 Honda Pilot (Md. 5GL9675); and on July 5 near 7720 Hanover Parkway, a 2021 Dodge Charger (Md. 8GP2409).

Stolen Vehicles Recovered

On July 1 at 12:17 a.m. near 2 Crescent Road, an officer saw two sedans speeding with no headlights on, then heard a loud crash and found a 2013 Hyundai Elantra with major front-end damage. A witness saw a young-looking man flee on foot. The Hyundai was listed as stolen with the Hyattsville Police Department. Officers arrested a young man matching the description.

On July 2 near 9300 Edmonston Road, a 2025 Honda Civic, was recovered unoccupied and without any tags attached.

Theft from Auto

Tags were stolen from five cars: on June 29 near 9117 Springhill Lane, front (Va. TJH8010); on June 30 near 9260 Edmonston Road (Va. TBW6470); on July 2 near 209 Lakeside Drive (Va. SYM4062); on July 2 near 5911 Cherrywood Lane (Md. 5GJ1224); and on July 5 near 9170 Edmonston Road, rear (Md. 9GA6025). On June 30 at 11:29 a.m. near 7501 Greenbelt Road, disability placards were stolen from a 2010 Hyundai Elantra left unlocked.

On July 3, airbags were stolen from three Honda sedans near 5300 North Center Drive, and from a 2024 near 6112 Breezewood Drive.

On July 3 near 19 Parkway, a 2019 white Ford Transit had a window smashed and power tools were missing. On July 4 near 6219 Springhill Court, a work vehicle was broken into and tools were stolen.

On July 3 near 9156 Springhill Court, a 2022 Subaru Outback was broken into and items were taken.

Vandalism to Auto

On July 3 near 8102 Lakecrest Drive, two Hyundai Tucsons were broken into; near 28 Ridge Road, a 2007 Ford van was found with a broken window.

On July 4 near 9220 Springhill Lane, a window was shattered on a Toyota Tacoma; near 9108 Edmonston Road, a Ford Transit van window was shattered.

On July 5 near 7825 Mandan Road, a sunroof window was broken.

Man Dies Following Southway Crash and Arrest by Park Police

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

At approximately 10 p.m. on Wednesday, July 1 a driver left the Baltimore-Washington Parkway, entered Southway and crashed his vehicle into a wooded area there. United States Park Police (USPP), who were already in the area, requested assistance from Greenbelt Police Department (GPD) and officers requested emergency medical crews to respond to the scene.

USPP placed the driver of the vehicle in handcuffs and escorted him out of the wooded area and to the roadway prior to the arrival of Greenbelt officers, according to a press release from the Maryland Attorney General's (AG) Office. "While in custody, the driver became unresponsive. Officers provided assistance," stated the AG's office. An infant was in the vehicle at the time of the crash but was not injured, according to the AG.

"Upon arrival, Greenbelt Police officers observed that United States Park Police officers had detained the driver, who appeared to be experiencing a medical emergency," said an announcement on GPD's social media page. Greenbelt officers assisted in providing medical care to the driver and, during this time, a USPP officer administered Narcan to him, according to the GPD statement.

Prince George's County Fire & EMS Department (PGFD) arrived on scene, rendered emergency medical aid and transported the driver to a local hospital, where he was later pronounced dead. His death has triggered an investigation by the Independent Investigations Division (IID) of the AG's office, which is investigating it as a "police-involved in-custody death."

The Greenbelt News Review has requested the call and response times for the PGFD fire and EMS responders through a public information act request. We also requested records, body camera footage and communication surrounding the incident from GPD and the IID but all those requests were denied due to the ongoing investigation by the IID, which has assumed responsibility for the investigation. However, the Office of the AG said that the News Review may submit a new request at a later date, at which point the availability of responsive records will be reassessed.

"The IID will generally release the name of the decedent and any involved officers within two business days of the incident, although that period may be extended, if necessary, pursuant to IID protocols. ... The IID will generally release body-worn camera footage within 20 business days of an incident. There may be situations where more than 20 days is necessary, including if investigators need more time to complete witness interviews, if there are technical delays caused by the need to shield the identities of civilian witnesses or to allow family members to view the video before it is released to the public," noted a statement on the AG press release.

No further information had been released at press time.

Anyone with information about this incident is asked to contact the IID at 410-576-7070 or by email at IID@oag.state.md.us.

Extreme Heat Causes Green Line Metro Train Derailment

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

Extreme heat in the area impacted the Metro over the weekend, causing a kink that derailed a train. Shortly before noon on July 4, a train car derailed on the Green Line near College Park Metro Station. According to Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), "preliminary investigation shows extreme heat as the cause of a rail heat kink that derailed the wheels of a 3000-series 6-car train."

Eleven travelers on board the derailed train were safely evacuated and no serious injuries were reported.

WMATA said they reduced speeds to 35 mph on aboveground tracks systemwide in response to the elevated temperatures per standard operating procedure.

Disruptions in the area continued for two days following the heat-related derailment. Customers were warned they would experience delays in both directions and asked to stay hydrated and patient. Buses replaced trains between Hyattsville Crossing and Greenbelt while track work and train removal continued and trains were single tracking between Hyattsville Crossing and Greenbelt due to the track repairs. Some trains were offloading at Hyattsville Crossing to minimize train traffic. Some Green Line and all Yellow Line trains also temporarily suspended service north of Fort Totten.

WMATA announced a rail heat kink derailed the wheels of a 3000-series 6-car train on Saturday, July 4.

- Photos courtesy Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

Classified Advertising

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BOXED: $11.50/column inch. Minimum 1.5 inches ($17.25). Deadline 2 p.m. Monday for ads that need to be set up, including those needing clip art and/or borders. 6 p.m. Tuesday for camera-ready ads. Certs and Notarizations each $10.

NEEDED: Please include name, phone number and address with ad copy. Ads not considered accepted until published.

DROP ads and payments in the mail slot in the exterior door of the News Review office. The door is located to the left of the main entrance on the east side of the Community Center (side closest to Roosevelt Center and the Municipal Building).

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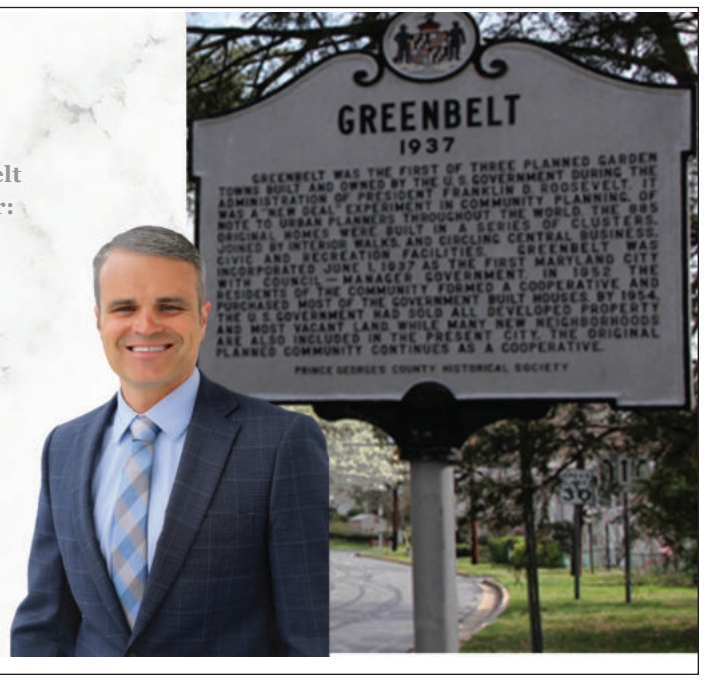

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Panelists included Christi Parsons, Capital News Service's Washington bureau chief; T.J. Ortenzi, deputy editor of audience and digital at the Baltimore Banner; Kit Slack, executive director of Streetcar Suburbs News; and Jesse Yeatman, managing editor of Southern Maryland News.

Speakers discussed balancing limited resources that newsrooms are increasingly facing with audience needs and emphasized that organizations should prioritize the functions most valuable to their communities.

Reaching Audiences

The conference's third panel, Reaching Audiences in the Hyperlocal Future, examined practical ways journalists can provide context, resources and actionable information. Moderated by Jerry Zremski, director of the Local News Network at Merrill College, the panel featured the American Press Institute's Yoni Greenbaum, Vasudevan and Merrill College professor Daniel Trielli. Though it's likely artificial intelligence (AI) will replace human writing for "commodity content" – generic, aggregated information, for example – it can't capture how that impacts people locally. "Newsrooms will discover that they are no longer needed, that they won't need as many reporters," said Greenbaum. "AI is going to replace what too many newsrooms, I believe, have called journalism 'community content.'" The hyperlocal is frequently what the reader looks for and community knowledge and connections are what AI can't replace, suggested the panel.

The conference concluded with a conversation featuring former ProPublica President Richard Tofel, who discussed the economic challenges facing journalism and the growing role of artificial intelligence in newsrooms. Speakers emphasized AI's usefulness for research, data analysis and monitoring public meetings, while still raising concerns about accuracy and job displacement.

Audience Needs

Following the conference Rosenstiel and Zremski reflected on its purpose. "This year was very much a follow-up to what we did last year," Rosenstiel said. "What we did this year was a year-long study in depth to say, 'What would those needs be here in Maryland?'"

Zremski said the conference has evolved from focusing on business models to examining the type of journalism communities actually need. "We're really teaching them something that's of value that they can take from here and implement in their newsrooms," Zremski said.

Attendees said the conference's emphasis on audience needs reflected broader changes within journalism.

Hanson, of the Greenbelt News Review, said he attended to learn how others were thinking about local news in Maryland. "I appreciated the broad framing of the news business model that was given at the conference," he said. "In the 20th century, news gathered attention and then sold advertisers access to that attention. Today, much of the surrounding information people once relied on newspapers for – weather, job listings, sports scores, etc. – comes from elsewhere, so local journalism has to focus more directly on serving readers and their needs." Hanson said two remarks from Rosenstiel particularly stayed with him: "The local is where I have influence" and "How will this story help someone?"

As local journalism continues to adapt to technological and economic change, conference organizers said understanding audience needs will remain central to its future.

The News Review will celebrate 90 years of continuous publication next year. It is steeped in history and also looking to the future of local news.

Cam Crossett is a University of Maryland graduate student at the Philip Merrill College of Journalism and intern at the Greenbelt News Review.

Cheri Glover's Art Plus Art Share

Visit the Community Center Art Gallery, where Cheri Glover's vivid and joyful artwork is inspired by "nature, dreams and the beauty of being human." The Gallery is open daily: Monday through Friday evenings from 5 to 9 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. This show is on view through August 9.

RSVP for a free artist talk with Glover on Friday, July 17 at 6 p.m. at sugeni.us/eEyT. Directly following the talk, community artists can gather for an Art Share, part of a series of monthly meet-ups. For more information about Greenbelt art programs and to sign up for the Art Share, visit greenbeltmd.gov/arts. Programs are supported in part by the Maryland State Arts Council.

PHOTO BY NICK HALL NH

A soccer ball awaits World Cup fever at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center playground in March 2026.

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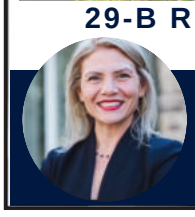
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Despite Heat and Storms, a Spirited Greenbelt Fourth of July Celebration

by Christina Whiteman

Despite adverse weather, Greenbelt held most of its planned events on Saturday, July 4. Greenbelt's abbreviated celebration of Independence Day had a significant attendance of residents and nonresidents alike. Community spirit was alive and well even with soaring temperatures and bouts of rain.

Two of the originally planned activities, the Greenbelt Recreation Arts activities and the Pocket Change performance, were cancelled due to the extreme conditions. The remaining activities were postponed until 7 p.m. for the same reason. Nevertheless, the celebration was eventful in comparison to other similar gatherings planned in the area – the City of Takoma Park, for example, cancelled its festivities entirely.

The event was kicked off by a reading of the Declaration of Independence at 7 p.m., which was followed by the National Anthem at 7:20 p.m. Next was a vibrant performance by Greenbelt's very own HONK! Situation, which continued until the fireworks display commenced at 8:50 p.m. The performance featured a variety of pieces ranging from New Orleans brass band standards to pop and rock hits, all by American artists. Many festivalgoers could be seen dancing in front of the stage or sitting nearby to enjoy the atmosphere. "We are a community street band, so we love to do things for the community and in the community. When we have a chance to come out and support a big event like this, we are down with it," said Dan Gillotte, the leader of the band.

Ultimately, the event united a large and diverse crowd that fostered genuine interactions and a clear focus on inclusivity. "I believe it's all about my community, having fun together and sharing this day," a Prince George's County resident named Opal said. The celebration was also a display of mutual support between Greenbelt and its residents. "One of the reasons I love to come to Greenbelt is that I feel the support from the mayor for the immigrant community. I like that, living in a community where I feel I am being supported by the government," another attendee named Janet said. "I just love my community and everything it offers," said HONK! Situation member and Greenbelt resident Dwayne.

As per tradition, a show of fireworks was fired off over the lake once the sun had set. Those attending the celebration sat beside one another to enjoy the show. In spite of the weather complications faced earlier on, the celebration ended as a success.

PHOTO BY CHRISTINA WHITEMAN

Fourth of July fireworks over Greenbelt Lake

PHOTO BY CHRISTINA WHITEMAN

A crowd gathers at Buddy Attick Park to celebrate the 4th of July, despite the heat and threat of storms.

PHOTO BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLOW

Euan (5) and 14-year-olds Callum, Elijah and Gavin watch the fireworks from Maplewood Court.

July 4th Chalk Art Installation

At the entrance to Buddy Attick Park, from left: Carol Ready, the chalk artist commissioned by the Arts Advisory Board (AAB); Divine Anamara, Greenbelt Recreation Arts intern; Kristin Stenson, the AAB member who wrote up the art proposal last year for the first chalk installation; and Prisca Mpanda

Art Installation at Roosevelt Center on July 3rd. From left: chalk artist Carol Ready, Prisca Mpanda and Arts Advisory Board member Kristin Stenson

- Photos by Amanda Larsen

PHOTO BY KEN LOO

Fireworks explode over Greenbelt Lake at Buddy Attick Park on Saturday, July 4, 2026.

PHOTO BY ANNIE BLAND

Molly Turner (9) watches the fireworks from Maplewood Court.